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United States & Canada

U.S. 'Concerned' by Soviet Peace Proposals

LD2712163088 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT
27 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 27 TASS—By TASS Military News Analyst Vladimir Bogachev:

U.S. secret services, seriously concerned over the international community's positive reaction to the Soviet peace initiatives, have launched coordinated efforts to 'rescue' NATO's military programmes many of which, it is believed in Washington, are in jeopardy already now.

The Western press reports that briefings are being intensively held in the U.S. capital, 'leaks of secret information' are being arranged, and rumours are being spread with a view to at least slowing down the blurring of the 'aggressive Soviet enemy' image which for decades has been used as the principal 'argument' in favour of building up U.S. and NATO military might.

The Pentagon has timed the 'discovery' of two new Soviet ABM radars, which are ostensibly a violation of the 1972 Soviet-U.S. treaty, for the period of the realisation of the Soviet decisions.

At a time when the Soviet Union has decided to cut down its armour units by 10,000 tanks, U.S. military experts quite unexpectedly began to speak about NATO's alarmingly increasing tank imbalance.

'Historical essays' about 'inborn aggressiveness of the Russians', about new Russia, which, just as old Russia, is being ostensibly 'torn asunder by simplistic instincts of colonization' have appeared in the press again as if on command.

Facts indicate that a sharp turn in the estimates of the Soviet Union's intentions has occurred in the world public opinion of late.

According to the findings of opinion polls, 75 per cent of people in the Federal Republic of Germany believe that a threat on the part of the Soviet Union should not be taken seriously. A campaign has been launched in the Federal Republic for NATO's renunciation of the programme 'to compensate' for the U.S. missiles, which are being eliminated under the INF Treaty, by new no less dangerous shorter-range nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, Washington insists that Bonn take a decision without delay on modernisation of the Lance nuclear missiles before it is too late. The Pentagon is worried by the fact that many West Europeans are of the opinion that the cold war is over and on these grounds urge their governments to reduce military expenditures. The Soviet initiatives gave rise to demands in Western Europe that NATO come forward with reciprocal proposals and, to begin with, reduce, say, NATO's nuclear artillery.

Many U.S. advocates of a hard-nosed approach are now urging the U.S. Administration not to allow the Russians to mislead it and not to be in a hurry to conclude new agreements on arms control.

They frankly admit that their purpose is to play down the wave of optimism that swept the world following the Soviet leader's address delivered at the U.N. General Assembly's session.

However, the heated discussions that developed in many countries over the Soviet initiatives confirm the conclusion: The world has reached a nuclear deadlock: A further arms buildup does not promote the attainment of political or economic goals of any of the sides.

The principal task is jointly to look for approaches to improving the international situation and to prevent the world from slipping down to an all-out catastrophe.

China

Commentary Reviews 1988 Asia-Pacific Situation

OW2812114488 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 0600 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Mulatov commentary]

[Text] Newspapers in the Asia-Pacific region have attached great importance to Indian Prime Minister Gandhi's visit to China and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Japan. Observers believe that the smooth progress in Sino-Indian and Soviet-Japanese dialogues can make positive and important contributions to establishing goodneighborly relations and multilateral peaceful cooperation throughout the region. It should be noted that to a certain extent, the past year is the turning point for establishing and strengthening a positive trend in the Asia-Pacific region. Please listen to our station observer Mulatov's commentary on this:

The marked progress achieved in the Soviet-Chinese political dialogue is, in my opinion, the most important of all events leading to the establishment of goodneighborly and constructive cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region in 1988. The fact that preparations for a summit meeting are indeed underway can best prove the results and prospects of the dialogue.

Both the Soviet Union and China have laid store on working together with other countries for turning the Asia-Pacific region into one of peace, friendship, and cooperation. Hence, both countries have strived to make the best use of political means for settling the existing regional conflicts. In this connection, what hopes has the year 1988 promised?

In answering this question, I would like to mention Chinese Foreign Minister Comrade Qian Qichen's recent visit to the Soviet Union and his talks with Comrade Shevardnadze. The focus of their talks was the

political settlement of the Cambodian question. The two sides agreed that (a favorable) condition has been created for eliminating the conflict. In the past year, leaders of People's Kampuchea have made contacts with Sihanouk and other activists of the Khmer Rouge. On 21 December, Vietnam completed the first phase of its troop withdrawal from Cambodia, which was started last June. So far, 50,000 Vietnamese troops have been pulled out. This is the case. Recently foreign reporters, including Western reporters, witnessed the withdrawal of 18,000 troops following an earlier pullout of 32,000. Vietnam has fulfilled the obligations it promised.

Let us go back to the topic of the significance of Indian Prime Minister Gandhi's visit to China and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Japan. It is no secret to anyone that major problems exist in Indian-Chinese and Japanese-Soviet relations. To solve the problems, all parties concerned have taken the path of constructive political dialogue. This fact explains that, in the overall situation in the Asia-Pacific region over the past year, there has been a growing trend of transition from mutual distrust to mutual understanding and from confrontation to dialogue [words indistinct]. We can hope for new advances in this positive trend in 1989.

Moscow Radio on PRC, Indian Detente Efforts

*OW2812063588 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 0300 GMT 24 Dec 88*

[Text] The Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ended his official visit to China on 23 December. During his stay in Beijing, he held talks with Chinese leaders Yang Shangkun, Li Peng, Zhao Ziyang, and Deng Xiaoping. Our station reporter writes that, during these talks, the Indian side indicated: We hope to return to better times, and overcome difficulties which have occurred. The Chinese side said: Let us forget the past, and look to the future. These have become the most important words during talks between the two sides.

Our station reporter asked: What are the two neighbors referring to?

Well, this has been the first contact at the highest level between the 2 countries in 30 years since a military clash between them cast a protracted dark shadow over their relations. This clash was caused by a border dispute. The Soviet Union has tried to resolve this complicated issue by political means. But, it has continued to remain unresolved. Now, as a result of talks in Beijing, there are signs that progress has been made in this respect. Both sides have stated in definite terms: We hope to resolve this issue on a basis acceptable to both sides.

At a news conference in Beijing, a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry touched on this subject and mentioned the possibility of reaching an agreement in the near future. He pointed out: Negotiations have been held in a sincere and friendly atmosphere. The two sides unanimously indicated their wish to expand ties in other

areas in order to pave the way for resolving the border issue smoothly. These ties include scientific and technological cooperation, cultural exchanges, and a civil aviation agreement. During talks in Beijing, the two sides repeatedly mentioned the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Now, it is obvious that India and China intend to build their mutual relations on the basis of these principles. This has extensive bearing on world affairs, and will help bring peace to Asia and beyond.

Progress Made in Soviet-Chinese Relations

*OW2412074388 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 0300 GMT 21 Dec 88*

[Loginov commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Many of you may have noticed an article by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen published in RENMIN RIBAO last week. According to Comrade Qian Qichen's appraisal, the development of Soviet-Chinese relations during this year is one of the most significant international events in 1988 and it has drawn worldwide attention. Soviet political commentator Loginov has the following comments on this:

The marked progress in normalizing Soviet-Chinese relations has been very satisfactory to our two socialist countries. In particular, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's recent successful visit to our country and the visit to China to be made by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze are viewed in both countries as major integral parts of the preparatory work for a summit meeting. As we all understand it, this will be a brand-new stage in the development of Soviet-Chinese relations and will create a new condition for expanding good-neighborly cooperation between the two big socialist countries.

Reviewing the past year, we can see that both sides have tried to understand each other better and to raise their political dialogues to a new level. We wish to point out with satisfaction that economic and trade ties and science and technology cooperation between our two countries have been put on a solid basis. The Soviet-Chinese Committee with deputy heads of the two governments as its leaders has worked energetically in this regard. This committee has established science-technology, transport, energy, and education work groups, and these groups have started their work. In June 1988, the committee held its third session and signed the principles for establishment of Soviet-Chinese joint ventures and an agreement on development of direct ties between Soviet republics, border regions, oblasts, ministries, commissions, and enterprises and Chinese provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities, townships, and towns. The year 1988 has also seen vigorous development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Soviet Union and China in various specific fields. Examples of such cooperation are too numerous to cite.

In concluding this short commentary, I wish to say I firmly believe that our two countries are greeting the year 1989 with successful results of our bilateral cooperation and bright prospects for expanding cooperation.

Kazakhstan-China Rail Link Considered

*LD0812163688 Moscow World Service in English
0710 GMT 8 Dec 88*

[Excerpts] The construction of a railroad that will link Kazakhstan, a Soviet republic north of Central Asia, with China is being reviewed. [passage omitted] The railroad will make it possible to considerably expand border trade. At the moment, opportunities for this are very limited. A (?motor) road linking Kazakhstan with China was beyond its capacity. At one time even the motor road was lifeless. The normalization of Sino-Soviet relations and mutual striving to develop economic ties has turned it into a busy highway. The road carries Soviet refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, building materials, and fertilizers to China. From China it brings farm produce, footwear, (?netwear), and ready-made clothing.

PRC Seamen Ask for Faster Port Clearance

*OW2512001288 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 0300 GMT 21 Dec 88*

[Text] Seamen of the Chinese merchant fleet have requested that permission to enter port be given them as soon as possible for scheduled or emergency calls at Soviet ports. Soviet experts are formulating a document in accordance with international law. They are given the right to supervise and (?aid) Chinese merchant ships according to an agreement between the two countries. The Chinese side also has the right to supervise and (?aid) Soviet merchant ships within its territory.

Border Tourism Agreement Signed With PRC

*LD2312104788 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0900 GMT 23 Dec 88*

[Text] The new international tourist route along the USSR and China's border regions needs no advertisement. It runs along the silk route, which has been famous since antiquity. The border agreement was reached during talks between delegations representing the PRC International Tourism Society and the Kazakh branch of the USSR State Committee for Tourism, which ended in Alma-Ata today.

The journey makes it possible to acquaint oneself closely both with the history of and with current conditions in the Soviet Union and China and the traditions of the peoples who live on both sides of the border.

The agreement does not just provide for cooperation in the tourism area, but also for rendering services to persons who make private journeys to visit relatives. The number of such people increases annually.

Northeast Asia

Communique Issued on Shevardnadze DPRK Visit

*LD2412175288 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0932 GMT 24 Dec 88*

[Text] Pyongyang, 24 Dec (TASS)—The working visit of Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR foreign minister, to the DPRK has ended. A communique on the results of the visit noted that the Soviet guest was received during the visit by Kim Il-song, Korean Workers' Party [WPK] Central Committee general secretary and DPRK president, and had a conversation with him which took place in friendly atmosphere. E.A. Shevardnadze delivered a personal message to Kim Il-song and conveyed warm greetings from Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and USSR Supreme Soviet chairman. Kim Il-song expressed his deep gratitude for the message and asked for fraternal greetings and good wishes to be conveyed to M.S. Gorbachev.

Thorough talks, which took place in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and which confirmed the unity of views of the sides on all matters discussed, took place between Eduard Shevardnadze and Kim Yong-nam, WPK Central Committee Politburo member, vice premier of the Administrative Council, and DPRK foreign minister.

On behalf of the government and people of the DPRK, Kim Yong-nam asked that sincere sympathy in connection with the tragic natural disaster in Transcaucasia be conveyed to the Soviet Government and people. On behalf of the Soviet people and the leadership of the Soviet Union, the USSR foreign minister expressed profound gratitude for the sympathy and assistance rendered.

The sides expressed satisfaction that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DPRK based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism are expanding and deepening in the spirit of the accords achieved at the meeting of M.S. Gorbachev and Kim Il-song in Moscow in 1986, and in accordance with the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance.

Those taking part in the talks feel certain that the planned visit of M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, to the DPRK is a highly important landmark in the development of relations between the two countries.

E.A. Shevardnadze said that the Soviet working people are implementing the decision of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th all-union party conference and carrying out restructuring in all spheres of the life of Soviet society and the reform of the economic and political system.

The Korean side announced its support for the CPSU policy aimed at accelerating social and economic development and deepening the process of restructuring and wished the Soviet people fresh achievements in this work.

Kim Yong-nam informed them that the Korean people, in carrying out the decision of the Sixth WPK Congress is launching an energetic struggle for the creation of a firm material and technical base for the complete victory of socialism, for a drastic improvement in the people's standard of living, and for the independent peaceful unification of their homeland.

The USSR foreign minister stated that Soviet people genuinely are glad for the successes that the Korean people are attaining under the leadership of the WPK.

In exchanging opinions on topical international matters, the sides noted that as a result of the tireless efforts of the socialist countries, other peace-minded countries, and all progressive forces in international political life, positive shifts have been outlined.

The Korean side highly evaluated and supported the initiatives of the Soviet Union directed at the creation of an all-embracing system of international security, the building of a non-nuclear and non-violent world, the refusal to allow militarization of space, and the full elimination of all kinds of nuclear and chemical weapons, having singled out in particular the important significance of the new proposals outlined in the speech by M.S. Gorbachev at the United Nations on 7 December for the relaxation of international tension and the attainment of general disarmament.

Particular attention at the talks was devoted to the situation in the Korean peninsula. The ministers stressed the great significance of easing tension in the peninsula and deciding the problem of peaceful unification of Korea for the cause of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Soviet side fully supported the proposal made by Kim Il-sung at the Sixth WPK Congress on the establishment of a Democratic Confederal Republic of Korea and, likewise, the proposals on calling a joint conference of North and South, as well as all the other initiatives by the DPRK directed at an independent peaceful unification of Korea. Solidarity was expressed with the active efforts of the DPRK toward concluding a peace accord with the United States and the signing by North and South of a declaration on nonaggression and on the reunification of the country on the basis of dialogue between them.

Noting that this year it will be 40 years since Soviet troops were withdrawn from the DPRK, the sides condemned the presence of U.S. troops in South Korea for

almost half a century now and resolutely advocated the speediest withdrawal from Korean soil of these troops along with their nuclear weapons.

Confirming the unchanging character of its principled position regarding South Korea, the Soviet side expressed its opposition to the attempts by the United States and South Korean authorities to enshrine the country's split by creating a "two-Koreas" situation by means of what is termed the "cross recognition" of North and South Korea and their simultaneous or separate admission to the United Nations. The Soviet Union has no intention of officially recognizing South Korea nor establishing political and diplomatic relations with it.

The sides consider that the visit to the DPRK by the USSR foreign minister has displayed the endeavor to further develop the traditional relations of Soviet-Korean friendship, and its results will promote a further deepening of the cooperation of the DPRK and the USSR in the international arena.

On behalf of the Soviet Government, E.A. Shevardnadze invited Kim Yong-nam, WPK Central Committee Politburo member, vice premier of the Administrative Council and DPRK foreign minister, to make an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Commentary Views Japanese Territorial Issue
OW2612014888 Moscow in Japanese to Japan
1200 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze concluded his official visit to Japan on 21 December. Today, we will broadcast a commentary by Radio Moscow commentator Dmitriyev on this event:

In the joint communique that summarized his visit, the two foreign ministers confirmed the intention of both sides to improve relations between the Soviet Union and Japan, and this statement has been received with satisfaction. On the other hand, questions have been aroused as to what measures should be taken to improve relations, and what role Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze played in promoting this objective through his visit to Japan this time. A couple of days before Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Japan, ASAHI SHIMBUN stated that the foreign minister's visit would serve as a prelude to a breakthrough in the current situation. In view of the news conference given by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze prior to his departure for Manila, such an appraisal by ASAHI SHIMBUN can be regarded as appropriate. At this news conference, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze stated that an important step forward had been taken to open up great prospects for the political dialogue between the Soviet Union and Japan. In this

way, the Soviet Union and Japan have started easing the current chilly situation in bilateral relations and creating conditions for taking the next important steps to improve relations.

An important point at the talks held this time is that the two foreign ministers have agreed to carry out preparatory work for General Secretary Gorbachev's visit to Japan. In his talks with Prime Minister Takeshita, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze stated that Mr Gorbachev's visit to Japan had been placed on an agenda. It is apparent that the Japan-Soviet summit talks will give strong impetus to the overall development of bilateral relations. However, several conditions should be created for this purpose. The greater the development in bilateral relations the two countries achieve prior to the summit talks, the greater chance there will be for success at the summit talks.

Beyond any doubt Soviet-Japanese relations would be developed steadily should a peace treaty be signed. Since the end of the Second World War, 43 years have passed, and since the restoration of diplomatic relations 32 years have passed. Yet, no peace treaty has been signed. It goes without saying that such a situation is rather unnatural. However, as a result of the talks between the Soviet and Japanese foreign ministers, there is now a possibility that development can also be expected in this respect. The two foreign ministers agreed to establish a permanent working group at the vice foreign minister level. This working group supposedly will hold talks on various issues, including problems concerning the conclusion of a peace treaty, political and economic issues, and geographical and historical issues. By agreeing to talk on the territorial issue, the Soviet Union has made a compromise toward Japan. Nevertheless, when we take into consideration the long-standing differences on this territorial issue, it will not be easy to reach some sort of agreement and will probably take a lot of time.

While talks are being held on this territorial issue, Soviet-Japan relations in other fields should not be left undeveloped. It is not wise to say that overall relations between the two countries are dependent on one single issue because the Soviet Union and Japan can benefit from cooperation in many other fields. Such cooperation has been promoted for the sake of citizens in general, and as a result, Japanese people can now visit graves on Soviet territories.

Moreover, through their cooperation, the Soviet Union and Japan can do a lot to ease tension and strengthen stability in Asia. For the purpose of promoting such cooperation, Soviet leader Gorbachev made concrete proposals in his speeches delivered in Krasnoyarsk last September as well as in Vladivostok in 1986. Vigorous development of cooperation in the economic field can also bring about large profits to our two countries. In the current joint communique, the Japanese Government states its intention to promote the development of economic cooperation.

At the press conference held on his final day in Japan, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze stated that the two sides shared the same understanding at the current talks that Soviet-Japan relations should not deviate from the global historical process. At present, this historical process is moving toward a favorable direction of easing international tension. This trend has also created favorable conditions for bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. If this opportunity should be missed, it certainly would not be in the interest of the Soviet or Japanese people.

Mongolian Plenum Denounces Choybalsan Cult
PM2312162988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
23 Dec 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading: "Plenums Held"]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 22 Dec—An MPRP Central Committee plenum completed its work here today. J. Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the MPR People's Great Hural Presidium, delivered a report at it entitled "The New Tasks of MPRP Party Organizations and Ideological Work."

In the international issues section, the speaker stressed that the ideas of the new political thinking are having an ever increasing effect on the general world situation. M.S. Gorbachev's address at the 43d UN General Assembly session highlighted with renewed force the vitally important problems facing mankind at a crucial point in its history.

The MPR and USSR governments, J. Batmonh, pointed out, have agreed on the withdrawal of a considerable number of the Soviet troops from Mongolia. This joint peace-loving act is part and parcel of the two parties' and states' efforts to strengthen peace, trust, and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Noting the Mongolian people's undoubted achievements in building socialism, the speaker stressed that they could have been bigger if the party's organizational and ideological work among the masses had been kept at the proper level. He dwelt in detail on the negative role played in the country's life by the Kh. Choybalsan personality cult, which developed in Mongolia under the influence of the J. Stalin personality cult.

On the basis of the experience of the CPSU and the other fraternal parties, the Mongolian leader noted, the MPRP, at its 19th congress, set a course toward renewal of the economy and other spheres of life of society. One month before the plenum started the MPRP Central Committee Politburo submitted for nationwide discussion proposals on the restructuring of the country's political system. They were widely supported by the people.

A radical democratization was proposed in the formation of leading party bodies from primary party organization bureau to Central Committee, which will be elected by secret ballot from several candidates for each place. Profound changes are envisaged in the system of elections to organs of state power. Here too there could be several candidates per seat, with any MPR citizen have the right to nomination.

The plenum approved the conclusions contained in J. Batmonh's report and the proposals and practical tasks set forth in it and adopted a detailed resolution.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Observer on Shevardnadze Philippines Visit
LD2312212888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1745 GMT 23 Dec 88

["Reaction Roundup" by Aleksandr Zholkver, political observer]

[Text] Comrade Shevardnadze's visit to Manila drew attention for many reasons, above all, because it was the first visit by a Soviet foreign minister to the Philippines. And, of course, everybody was interested in how it would affect the development of bilateral relations.

The joint statement on the outcome of the visit expresses the desire on the part of the Governments of the USSR and the Philippines to accelerate the signing of a long-term agreement on economic and scientific-technological cooperation. Both sides agreed to raise the level of bilateral trade to roughly \$200 million annually in the next few years. The mutual desire to encourage exchanges in the spheres of culture, science and technology, sports, and tourism was also voiced.

In short, an important stimulus has been given for the development of Soviet-Philippine relations. However, the talks in Manila held by the Soviet foreign minister with President Aquino as well as with his Philippine counterpart went beyond merely bilateral relations. The package of important matters discussed in the Philippine capital also included the two countries' cooperation in the interests of security in the Asia-Pacific region and their joint efforts to improve the general climate of international relations. Speaking of this link, President Aquino said: We hail the Soviet Union not just as an Asian country, but as a prophet of global changes.

And now many observers are pointing out that the Manila talks clearly reflected these global changes. In the joint statement, both sides advocated a more vigorous collective search for international detente in the spirit of the new political mentality, a strengthening of security through disarmament, a greater role for the United Nations in international affairs, and the development of all-around cooperation between states, irrespective of their social system. This constructive stance meets with the approval and support in many countries of the

Pacific region. I cannot but say, however, that the Soviet minister's visit to the Philippines caused evident disquiet in one of them. I mean the United States. Many Voice of America commentaries today have spoken of this in unambiguous terms.

The reasons for this disquiet are quite clearly specified: the U.S. military bases in the Philippines, the largest outside the United States. It is fairly well known that broad sections of the Filipino public are in favor of these bases being scrapped, particularly because the presence at them of nuclear weapons runs counter to the Philippines' desire for a non-nuclear status. The Philippines Senate recently decided that the agreement on the U.S. bases, which is due to expire in 1991, should not be reviewed. Of course, this is a domestic matter for the Filipinos themselves. However, at the same time, one cannot fail to see that the presence of foreign military facilities and armed forces in other countries is clearly a carry-over from the cold war and is an additional source of tension and danger even in peace time. The Soviet-Philippines statement expressed the hope that the foreign military presence will decline as the situation in the world is normalized.

I should remind you, too, that in his Krasnoyarsk speech Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev put forward specific proposals. If the United States sets about scrapping her military bases in the Philippines, then the USSR will be prepared—if the Government of Vietnam agrees—to give up her Cam Ranh Bay center for the Navy's material and technical support. That would be a sizeable contribution to reducing the level of military confrontation in the Asian-Pacific region and to strengthening peace and security throughout the world.

Yazov Greets SRV Counterpart on Army Day
PM2212100088 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 22 Dec 88 First Edition p 1

[Message from USSR Defense Minister D. Yazov to SRV Minister of National Defense Le Duc Anh on Vietnamese Army Day]

[Text] To SRV Minister of National Defense Army General Comrade Le Duc Anh

Esteemed Comrade Minister!

On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and on my own account, I cordially congratulate you and all Vietnamese servicemen on the 44th anniversary of the Vietnamese People's Army.

I am confident that the servicemen of our friendly armies will continue to deepen their collaboration in the struggle for the establishment of peace and for universal security and cooperation among states in Southeast Asia, the Asian and Pacific region, and throughout the world.

I wish the personnel of the Vietnamese People's Army new successes in fulfilling the tasks set by the Sixth Communist Party of Vietnam Congress in the cause of further strengthening the motherland's defense capability and in ensuring the country's successful progress along the path of building socialism.

With Communist Greetings

D. Yazov

Army General

USSR Defense Minister

CPV Delegation Views Soviet Reform Experience

*PM1512153588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Dec 88 Second Edition p 4*

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Announcements"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for interparty ties, a delegation of Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) workers headed by Nguyen Huu Thu, deputy chief of the CPV Central Committee Economic Department, visited the Soviet Union 4 through 14 December to acquaint itself with progress in implementing economic reform in the USSR and with experience of party leadership of the economic sphere.

The Vietnamese comrades had meetings and conversations at departments of the CPSU Central Committee and the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee, party gorkoms and raykoms, a number of ministries and departments, and production collectives.

Commission on Cambodian Problem Ends Session

*LD2312181088 Moscow TASS in English 1753 GMT
23 Dec 88*

[Text] Paris December 23 TASS—The first meeting of the working commission dealing with the problems of political settlement around Kampuchea has ended here. The commission was set up in accordance with the decisions of the meeting in Fere-en-Tardenois in November between Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of Kampuchea, Prince Norodom Sihanouk and leader of one of the nationalist Kampuchean groups Son Sann.

The delegation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea was led at the meeting by Hor Nam Hong, who is a government minister and Kampuchea's ambassador to the USSR.

A representative of the "Red Khmers" also took part in the work of the commission.

The session focused on issues connected with meeting the time-table for the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea and problems connected with the signing of the agreement on the political settlement in Kampuchea.

The Kampuchean representative drew attention of the Kampuchean sides to the fact that the withdrawal of 50,000 Vietnamese volunteers, announced earlier, had been completed this year. He also made several new proposals aimed at national reconciliation and settling contentious issues. Hor Nam Hong, in particular, proposed simultaneous suspension of foreign aid to all Kampuchean sides, including the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The head of the Kampuchean delegation also favored the creation of special subcommissions for a detailed study of all issues connected with the settlement in Kampuchea, in particular, the creation of a special organization to hold general election and to oversee the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers.

However, the good will proposals of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, Hor Nam Hong pointed out, did not meet understanding from the other participants of the working commission who said they contained nothing new.

A decision was taken to break the first meeting of the working commission which, as was initially planned, should last three days. At the same time the sides agreed to maintain mutual contacts and continue the study of the proposals. The date of the second meeting will be agreed later.

Burmese Ambassador Presents Credentials

*PM1412152988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
10 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4*

[TASS report: "Presentation of Credentials"]

[Text] U Tin Tun, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Union of Burma, presented his credentials to A.I. Lukyanov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in the Kremlin 9 December.

In his speech, the ambassador highly appraised the Soviet Union's policy toward Burma and spoke in favor of expanding ties between the two countries for the benefit of their peoples. He emphasized the invariably friendly nature of Burmese-Soviet relations, which have always developed on the basis of goodwill and mutual understanding.

Accepting the credentials on behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and its chairman, A.I. Lukyanov, noted that throughout their history, Soviet-Burmese relations have been built on the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect. The correctness of this approach is obvious especially now, when the

concept of the new political thinking is generating an increasingly broad response all over the world. Hope was expressed that the friendly relations between our countries' people would expand and strengthen.

During the conversation which was held following the presentation of credentials, A.I. Lukyanov drew U Tin Tun's attention to the large-scale processes of restructuring and democratization of all aspects of Soviet society's life now under way in our country, and to the positive changes taking shape in the world which, as M.S. Gorbachev noted in his 7 December speech at the United Nations, create sound prerequisites for the development of international cooperation all over the world, including the Asia-Pacific region, on the basis of freedom of choice and diversity in the social development of different countries.

Taking part in the conversation were T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and V.P. Karpov, USSR deputy foreign minister.

Near East & South Asia

Soviets To Help Establish PLO-Israeli Dialogue
TA2712123488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
27 Dec 88 p 2

["Exclusive" report by correspondent in Egypt Yoram Hamizrahi]

[Excerpt] Cairo—Soviet Ambassador to Egypt Gennadiy Zhuravlev said in Cairo yesterday that the Soviet Union is ready to help establish a dialogue between Israel and the PLO. He noted that "various options exist, all of which should be examined."

The ambassador, who has 25 years of experience in various Soviet Foreign Ministry positions in the Middle East, told the HA'ARETZ correspondent that the Soviet Union is implementing "a policy of new thinking" which develops different courses of action that go beyond ideological barriers.

"Mr Yitzhaq Shamir has a place at the negotiating table, and everyone is expecting clarifications on the subject of Israel's policy. If these problems are settled, it will also be possible to resume diplomatic relations." The ambassador stressed "the need for a dialogue to lead to the convening of a conference that will solve all the problems of the region."

Replying to reporters, the Soviet ambassador said that no precise date has been set for Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's tour of the region and that "diplomatic-level contacts are being held on this issue."

In a conversation with the HA'ARETZ correspondent in Cairo, the ambassador said that soon "the Soviet Union and the United States will launch talks on the subject of armament in the Middle East." He added that the Soviet policy on peace and dialogue goes beyond ideological barriers. [passage omitted]

Vorontsov Meets With Former Afghan King in Rome

Vorontsov-Zaher Meeting

LD2412224588 Moscow World Service in English
2200 GMT 24 Dec 88

[Text] The Soviet First deputy foreign minister and ambassador to Kabul, Yuliy Vorontsov, has met the former King of Afghanistan Mohammad Zaher Shah in Rome. The parties exchanged views on Afghanistan's future.

At a news conference in Rome Yuliy Vorontsov pointed out the Soviet and Afghan Governments were resolved to work for peace in Afghanistan.

Rome Talks Viewed

PM2712170588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
27 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 5

[IZVESTIYA-TASS report: "Around the Meeting in Rome"]

[Text] One of the topics currently being discussed in the foreign press is the Rome meeting of Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and Zahir Shah, former king of Afghanistan.

During the meeting there was a detailed discussion of ways to settle the Afghan problem. The Soviet side emphasized the firm intention of the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan to seek the cessation of hostilities, the acceleration of the process of a peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan, and the creation of the essential prerequisites for the formation of a broadly based government in the country. Both the Soviet Union and the Afghan leadership believe that Zahir Shah could play a useful role in the restoration of peace on the territory of Afghanistan and the initiation of a pan-Afghan dialogue with the participation of all political forces.

Zahir Shah stressed, for his part, his adherence to the idea of the cessation of hostilities and the settlement of the conflict by political methods.

As THE NEW YORK TIMES writes, Western diplomats have called the Rome meeting significant. "Some specialists believe," the newspaper writes, "that the former king could act as a link between the hostile Afghan groupings and, possibly, become a unifying symbol in the government which will be formed following the Soviet troop withdrawal."

As far as the Afghan armed opposition is concerned, its leaders are uttering diametrically opposed views on the negotiations for a settlement of the Afghan problem. Hence, the head of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan," G. Hikmatyar, opposed the negotiations with the Soviet representatives insofar as—in his words—there are, among the opposition leaders, differences on this issue.

Meanwhile, Rabbani, the leader of the "seven-member alliance," following the recent negotiations in Saudi Arabia with Yu.M. Vorontsov, welcomed contacts with the Soviet representatives.

Rabbani visited Tehran and was received by President Khamene'i, who also met with representatives of the Iran-based Afghan opposition.

As IZVESTIYA's editorial office heard from informed sources, the Soviet representatives intend to pursue negotiations with representatives of the "seven-member alliance" in Pakistan and of Afghan opposition groups active in Iran.

Commentator Criticizes Afghan Government

LD2312204288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1600 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Vladimir Fadeyev commentary]

[Text] [Announcer Andrey Ptashnikov] And now let us address the international news topics. We will begin with the situation in Afghanistan. It is known that the Geneva agreements on this country have until now been fulfilled by just two parties—Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Thus the situation in that region continues to be extremely tense. And this despite the fact that we have already withdrawn half of our troops, and intend, in accordance with the Geneva documents, to end that withdrawal by 15 February. What, then, lies behind the complicated and tense situation in Afghanistan? I set this question to my colleague, commentator Vladimir Fadeyev.

[Fadeyev] First of all, as is commonly known, the Geneva agreements did not obligate the armed opposition in any way—it did not take part in the talks in Geneva. But the hopes of the world community and of millions of Afghans, that Pakistan and the United States would stop supplying arms to the rebels after they signed the documents, have not been justified. Thus, the opposition continues to possess fairly strong armed formations which have been well trained—in the same Pakistan. And it would be rash and incompetent to declare that they do not present any threat in the military sense to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. That is not so. And this is seen particularly in those regions of Afghanistan from which our troops withdrew back in the spring of this year. The Afghan Army still does not have a decisive military preponderance over the rebels along the entire front of combat operations. This gives the opposition grounds to reject proposals of establishing a coalition government with the participation of the PDPA. The leaders of the Peshawar

Seven are also for the time being, taking an uncompromising stand with respect to our proposals on holding an international conference on the neutrality and demilitarization of Afghanistan.

They have now set off for a meeting with the Alliance of Eight which has been created in Iran, obviously in order to elaborate some sort of joint opinion on these issues. But notwithstanding that, support for the mujahidin by the United States and Pakistan lies at the roots of their negative position.

[Ptashnikov] But what do you think? Is the current government in Kabul doing all it can to effectively assist the policy of national reconciliation?

[Fadeyev] Judging by my observations, far from all. Or I will put it this way: it is not working flat out. And here is some evidence that I am not far from the truth. Only today there was a conference at the PDPA Central Committee at which Afghan President Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA, having analyzed the role of the party, under conditions when it, with the withdrawal of our troops, has to assume full responsibility for the achievement of peace and an end to the war in the country, spoke critically about party unity and drew attention to the need for further rallying its ranks. Well, what can one say on this account? I think that this problem, and it is a longstanding one, seriously reflects on the party's prestige, and on the work of the people who are members of the party and are truly dedicated to the current policy.

And the second thing that has always caught my eye is the poor—to put it mildly—knowledge and understanding by the popular masses of even the main tasks and ideas that the party is working to accomplish. But I have reported on a number of occasions about this, and I fear that to some extent the moment has been missed. Time expects decisive actions and unprecedented efforts by the PDPA itself and the parties supporting it in order to involve the people, or rather to introduce them to the new stage of life that the entire country is soon to begin.

And the main thing here, I think, is not to reject the positive things that have nevertheless been achieved and have become asserted in the minds of the people.

1 Killed, 5 Wounded in Kabul Rocket Attack

LD2712110788 Moscow TASS in English 1101 GMT
27 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul December 27 TASS—Six rockets exploded in residential areas of the Afghan capital on Tuesday. According to preliminary data, one person was killed, five residents, including one woman, were wounded. Today's rocketing of Kabul is the first in the last one and a half months.

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation Tours Mideast

Meets With Iraqi Official

*LD2012112888 Moscow TASS in English 0807 GMT
20 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad December 20 TASS—A delegation from the Soviet Parliamentary group led by Rafik Nishanov, secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee and member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, continues its visit to Iraq.

The delegation was received by Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Iraqi revolutionary command and chairman of the National Council (parliament). During the meeting the sides pointed to the important role of parliamentary activities in strengthening mutual understanding and confidence between peoples and states. They examined questions of development of parliamentary relations between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Iraqi National Council. Both sides expressed support for the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their only legitimate representative, for their inalienable national rights. During the meeting the sides spoke of the need for a political settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict, which would lead to the establishment of peace and security in the Persian Gulf area.

Group Holds Talks in Iraq

*LD2012152088 Moscow TASS in English 1222 GMT
20 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad December 20 TASS—The delegation of the USSR parliamentary group led by Rafik Nishanov, member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, met here Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and chairman of the National Assembly (parliament). The delegation is on a tour of several Arab countries on the invitation of the Arab Parliamentary Union.

Soviet parliamentarians informed their interlocutors in detail about revolutionary perestroika in the USSR, changes in the activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which aim to enhance its role and influence in the political and socio-economic life in the country. Hammadi spoke about the tasks being accomplished by the Iraqi leadership.

The sides underscored the important role parliamentarians' activity has to play in fostering the positive tendencies which have shaped up in the world and in promoting mutual understanding among peoples and states. The Iraqi side commended Soviet foreign policy initiatives which serve to strengthen the cause of peace and stability, specially emphasizing the importance of Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the U.N. General Assembly session.

Touching on the situation in the Middle East, both sides expressed support for the Arab people of Palestine battling under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, their sole lawful representative, for implementing their inalienable national rights.

They applauded the recent decisions of the Palestine National Council, which created a favourable atmosphere for speeding up the peace process in the region. In view of this, they noted the urgent need to direct the cause of defusing the Arab-Israeli (?conflict) into the channel of practical steps to prepare and convene an international mideast conference.

The Soviet and Iraqi parliamentarians declared for consolidating the process of talks between Iran and Iraq to achieve a political settlement of the Iran-Iraqi conflict, which would lead to the establishment of lasting peace and security in the Persian Gulf Area. They stressed that this settlement was in the interests of both the Iranian and Iraqi peoples as well as other peoples of that region. The MPs drew attention to the United Nations' positive role in arranging and conducting talks between the two warring sides. During the exchange of views on the Afghan problem, both sides underlined the need to fulfill honestly the Geneva agreements by all those who signed them and acted as a guarantor. In this context, the view was expressed that the long-awaited peace in Afghanistan should be ensured on the basis of a broad political dialogue.

At the meeting the MP's also discussed specific issues of interaction and cooperation between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Iraqi National Assembly. The head of the Soviet delegation extended an invitation to Iraqi parliamentarians to visit the Soviet Union. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

The Iraqi side expressed condolences over the earthquake in Armenia.

Visit to Iraq Concluded

*LD2212145288 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0752 GMT 22 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (TASS)—The USSR parliamentary group delegation, headed by R.N. Nishanov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, has ended its visit to Iraq. It was visiting Iraq within the framework of a tour of a number of Near Eastern countries at the invitation of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

During their visit to Iraq the Soviet parliamentarians were received by T.Y. Ramadan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and first deputy prime minister of the country. The delegation held talks with S. Hammadi, chairman of the National Assembly of Iraq, and with other representatives of the leadership of the National Assembly.

During their conversations and meetings it was noted with satisfaction that there was coincidence or proximity of the positions of the sides on many very important problems, and in the first instance on such problems as the struggle for peace and disarmament and the seeking of solutions for local conflict situations by peaceful political means.

The Iraqi side expressed support for the purposeful activity of the Soviet leadership to ensure a radical improvement in the political atmosphere on the international arena. In this context stress was laid on the importance to mankind of the initiatives put forward in M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the 43d UN General Assembly session.

The Soviet and Iraqi representatives came out in favor of the necessity of intensifying the role of parliaments in expanding international dialogue, and in creating an all-embracing system of international peace and security. There was discussion of specific proposals to develop cooperation among the parliamentarians of the USSR, Iraq, and other Arab countries. In particular the shared opinion was expressed that it is useful to develop such a new form of parliamentary links as contacts via the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

During discussion of the situation in the Persian Gulf region, the Soviet side noted the importance of consolidating the process of negotiations between Iraq and Iran, and for both sides to display flexibility and political realism and readiness to seek mutually acceptable solutions. It is essential to do everything to ensure that the Geneva dialogue does not come to a standstill and that there are no recurrences of war, and that all efforts are directed to serve peace. These efforts have a good international legal foundation for a final settlement of the conflict in UN Security Council Resolution No 598, and they also have a mechanism for achieving a settlement in direct talks with the participation of the UN secretary general and his representative. The final result should be that the Persian Gulf region should become a zone of security, good-neighborliness, and cooperation. The Iraqi side confirmed its intention to continue the talks with Iran with the aim of achieving a final settlement of the conflict and establishing a firm peace in the region.

During conversations there was discussion of the position in the Near East. Support was expressed for the heroic struggle of the Arab people of Palestine, under the leadership of its only legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, for independence and national self-determination. It was noted that as a result of the constructive decisions of the Palestine National Council, adopted at the Algiers session, favorable conditions were created for a just settlement of the Near Eastern problem. In this connection, the importance of holding a peace conference on the Near East, with the participation of all interested sides, including the PLO, was stressed.

Touching on the Afghan question, the Soviet and Iraqi representatives stressed the need for the strict implementation of the Geneva agreements by all signatory countries. There was also discussion of Soviet-Iraqi relations. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the state of these relations, and noted that they would strive to develop them.

Delegation Visits Kuwait

*LD2112195288 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT
21 Dec 88*

[Text] Kuwait December 11 TASS—A delegation of the parliamentary group of the USSR, led by Rafik Nishanov, a member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Uzbek Communist Party, which arrived here from Iraq, met today with Sulayman Majid al-Shamin, Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister. In a businesslike and friendly conversation the sides exchanged opinions on topical international problems. They discussed the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union, tabled by Mikhail Gorbachev at the U.N. General Assembly session in New York.

Both sides stated with satisfaction the commonality of their positions on key issues of the international situation, including the Middle East settlement and the situation in the Persian Gulf.

In discussing the Afghan issue, the Kuwaiti side said it favoured the need for compliance with the Geneva Accords and continuation of different efforts with a view to achieving a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The sides praised the current status of Soviet-Kuwaiti relations and expressed the conviction that these relations have favourable prospects for further development.

The Soviet delegation had visited Syria, Jordan and Iraq before coming to Kuwait.

Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

*LD2312093288 Moscow TASS in English 0645 GMT
23 Dec 88*

[Text] Kuwait December 23 TASS—Upon arriving here from Iraq, the USSR parliamentary group delegation, led by Rafik Nishanov, member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet (Parliament), first secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, met on Wednesday with Sulayman al-Majid al-Shahin, Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister, on Wednesday.

During a businesslike and friendly atmosphere the two sides had an exchange of views on topical international problems. They discussed the Soviet Union's peace initiatives proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev in his address at the UN General Assembly session in New York.

The two sides were gratified to state the community of stands on key matters concerning the international situation, including that on a settlement of the Middle East conflict, and on the situation in the Persian Gulf.

During the discussion of the Afghan issue, the Kuwaiti side declared for the need for compliance with the Geneva agreements and for a continuation of versatile efforts with a view to achieving a political settlement in Afghanistan.

A high appraisal of the state of Soviet Kuwaiti relations was given, and conviction was expressed that there were favourable prospects for their further development.

Delegation Returns From Tour

*LD2312093888 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0815 GMT 23 Dec 88*

[Text] Moscow, 23 Dec (TASS)—A USSR parliamentary delegation, headed by Rafik Nishanov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, returned today to Moscow.

At the invitation of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the delegation visited Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait.

Visit to Middle East Reviewed

*LD2412192788 Moscow TASS in English 1817 GMT
24 Dec 88*

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—A press announcement on the results of the visit of Soviet parliamentarians to a number of Middle Eastern countries was published here.

At the invitation of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) a delegation of the USSR parliamentary group, led by Rafik Nishanov, member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, visited the headquarters of this organisation in Damascus and, in accordance with the schedule of the visit, also held meetings with the parliamentary groups of Syria, Jordan and Iraq, which are members of the AIPU, and representatives of the Palestine National Council (PNC). The delegation was received in these countries at parliamentary and government levels.

During the talks with AIPU Secretary-General Abdelrahman Bouraoui and other leaders, an exchange of views took place on urgent international issues and questions of cooperation between Soviet and Arab parliamentarians.

The sides stated with satisfaction that international relations are being marked by the atmosphere of detente, a search for eliminating the seats of tension and achieving a peaceful solution of international problems and regional conflicts in various regions of the world. In particular, Afghanistan, Namibia, the Persian Gulf and

Kampuchea. The sides welcomed the signing of Geneva accords on Afghanistan and expressed the hope that the fulfillment by all participants of the articles of the agreement will bring peace to Afghanistan and ensure the independent development of this country. They gave high appraisal to the initiatives made by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech at the session of the U.N. General Assembly, including the unilateral reduction of the Soviet Armed Forces and armaments, which is regarded as a constructive contribution to strengthening international detente. Both sides expressed concern over the persisting tensions in the Middle East as a result of the continuing Israeli occupation of Arab lands and repressions by Israeli authorities on occupied territories. Support was expressed for the one-year-old heroic uprising of the Arab people of Palestine which is a legitimate reaction to the occupation and Israeli repressions.

The sides welcomed the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state at the recent PNC [Palestine National Council] session in Algiers. They noted that the birth of this state was the expression of the will of the Arab people of Palestine, the practical embodiment of its right to self-determination. A unanimous opinion was expressed that the right way to establishing peace in the Middle East lay through the convocation of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation on an equal basis of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, and five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the termination of war between Iran and Iraq, their acceptance of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and the start of peaceful talks under the U.N. auspices to find settlement of the conflict which would meet the interests of the two neighboring countries and lay foundation for peace in the region on the whole.

The participants in the talks discussed the continuing aggressive actions of Israel in Lebanon and demanded the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from south Lebanese territory. They expressed the hope that an accord will be achieved between various Lebanese groups, that Lebanese statehood, sovereignty and independence will be strengthened.

Lukyanov Receives First UAE Envoy's Credentials

*PM2312120288 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4*

[TASS report: "Presentation of Credentials"]

[Text] On 22 December Nasir Sulayman al-'Abbudi, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], presented his credentials to A.I. Lukyanov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in the Kremlin.

The ambassador declared the UAE's intention to strengthen and develop bilateral relations with the USSR for the common good of our peoples and in the interests of strengthening peace and security. N. al-'Abbudi conveyed wishes for success to the friendly Soviet people from the leadership and people of his country.

On behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and its chairman, A.I. Lukyanov welcomed N. al-'Abbudi as the first UAE ambassador to the USSR. He stressed that the Soviet Union has great respect for the people of the UAE and for its leadership's course in international affairs. The proximity of the approaches of the Soviet Union and the UAE to the resolution of the most important international and regional problems creates favorable preconditions for deepening mutual understanding and further developing cooperation between our countries.

The ambassador's attention was drawn to the large-scale new ideas and initiatives put forward by M.S. Gorbachev at the United Nations. It was stressed that the new political thinking, which asserts the principles of respect for freedom of choice and the balance of interests, also determines our view of the nature of a Near East settlement and efforts to ensure peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region.

After the presentation of credentials a friendly talk took place between A.I. Lukyanov and N. al-'Abbudi, with the participation of T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and A.A. Besmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister.

Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society Delegation Meets
*JN2212173388 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT
22 Dec 88*

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 22, INA—Delegation of Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society under chairmanship of head of the society 'Abd al-Amir Mu'allah, met here today with the member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, chairwoman of the Federation of Soviet Friendship Societies with Foreign Peoples Mrs Valentina Tereshkova.

During the meeting, the relations between friendship societies in the two countries and means of developing them in service of the two friendly peoples were reviewed.

Mrs Tereshkova lauded the existing relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union, confirming her country's keenness on developing them, and expressed thanks to the Iraqi leadership, at the head of which is President Saddam Husayn, and gratitude to the Iraqi people and Iraqi friendship societies with peoples for the priceless aid for the victims of the Armenian earthquake, and said that the Soviet people would not forget that noble attitude which came despite the circumstances that Iraq was living in the wake of a war that had continued for eight years.

Mrs Tereshkova also wished success for the Iraqi people and their leadership. The Iraqi delegation which arrived here yesterday will leave, in the coming two days, for Soviet Armenia.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Adamishin Speaks at Signing of Tripartite Accord
*FL2212224188 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1619 GMT 22 Dec 88*

[Speech by Anatoliy Leonidovich Adamishin, Soviet deputy minister of foreign affairs, at the signing ceremony of the Tripartite Agreement held at the Economic and Social Council Hall of the United Nations in New York; in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation—live]

[Text] Thank you Mr Secretary of State [George Shultz]. At this time, I would like to offer our condolences on the tragedy that occurred yesterday, a tragedy that claimed the lives of a considerable number of individuals.

Mr Secretary General, we express our condolences on the death of the UN High Commissioner for Namibia, Mr Bernt Carlsson. We all knew him and recognized him.

Two months ago, few would have envisioned the events that are occurring today at the United Nations headquarters. We have taken the first step. We hope that this is a long-lasting solution to one of the most long-lasting regional conflicts.

The current world situation is in a process of quick change, a change for the better. I doubt that anyone can deny that these changes are extensively related to the positive events occurring in southeast [translator corrects herself] southwest Africa. It is also evident that these changes have been attained with the new political thought that is being introduced by the Soviet Union in the area of international policy.

If everything continues as planned, then in the not-so-distant future, in the world political map, [rephrases] the last bastion of colonialism will disappear from the map of the world and new [2-second break in transition] Namibia.

With their own sacrifices, the people of Namibia have won the right to free-determination and independence. We wish them and the leaders of the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] liberty, happiness, and peace.

I have instructions to say that the Soviet Union hails the productive and successful culmination of the arduous and difficult negotiations to solve the problem in southwest Africa. This confirms our conviction that even the most difficult problems of the current world can be resolved through political means.

On this historic occasion, I would especially like to stress the contribution made by our friends from Angola and Cuba in solving this conflict, as well as their flexible foreign policy accompanied by a dynamic diplomacy.

During the negotiations, the United States of America played a constructive role as mediator.

Allow me to express, in accordance with the remarks made by Mr Shultz, that the mutual agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States will be used to develop solutions—and I stress, to develop and not find solutions in the name of others—in other regional conflicts. I would also like to stress the spirit of reality which has been demonstrated by the Government of South Africa. I would especially like to express the hope that this spirit is maintained in the future.

I would like to say that in this case.... [unidentified speaker interrupts and says in English: "There will be no interruption in the electrical current," and the translator repeats the announcement in Spanish].

This also confirms that the importance of the work of the United Nations has increased in solving regional conflicts. What we should do is scrupulously comply with the agreement as was indicated 2 weeks ago when Mr Gorbachev made his memorable statement at the UN General Assembly: Pactum (Subservandum).

For its part, the Soviet Union is willing to continue to make all the authority of its policy—and with practical actions—work in favor of establishing peace and tranquillity in this sector based on the inalienable rights of all the peoples of the region, especially the right to a free election, [translator pauses and then repeats herself] election of its road to development.

Thank you.

Gorbachev Reacts to Southwest Africa Accords

Message to Cuban Meeting

*PM2312114388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
23 Dec 88 Second Edition p 1*

[Message sent by General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev to Fidel Castro on the signing of the southwest Africa accords]

[Excerpts] The new victory of proletarian internationalism became a reality today with the signing in New York of the tripartite agreement between the Republics of Cuba and Angola and the Republic of South Africa. The historic document was signed in the UN Economic and Social Council meeting room with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in attendance. [passage omitted]

The deputies attending the fourth regular session of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] learned about a congratulatory message sent by Comrade

Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU. Acting ANPP President Severo Aguirre del Cristo read the document sent by the Soviet leader to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, who attended this parliament forum all day long.

The message says the following:

To Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, Havana.

Dear Comrade Fidel,

We have received with satisfaction in the Soviet Union the signing at the UN Headquarters in New York the agreements for settlement in southwest Africa which resulted from the intense negotiations of Angola and Cuba with the Republic of South Africa.

I congratulate you for this event which is the first but very important step toward peace and security in the southern Africa region. It became possible due to Cuba's years-long and heroic assistance in Angola's struggle for independence and freedom.

I would like to highlight the dynamic diplomatic activity of the Republic of Cuba and your personal effort, Comrade Fidel, which have allowed a political solution to be found to the most acute regional conflict.

As a result, a prospect of peaceful development and of a strengthening of the political and economic independence of the states situated in the region is opening up before southwest Africa.

With friendly greetings

[Signed] M. Gorbachev

Message to Angolan Leader

*PM2312115588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
23 Dec 88 Second Edition p 1*

[M.S. Gorbachev undated message to Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos on signing of southwest Africa agreements]

[Text] To Comrade Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola

Esteemed Comrade Dos Santos!

People in the Soviet Union welcomed with satisfaction the signing in New York of the agreements on a settlement in southwest Africa, which is the result of prolonged and intensive talks. This is an event of historic importance, a breakthrough in unraveling the conflict in

southern Africa—one of the acute regional conflicts. It is no accident that the talks and their outcome are backed by the United Nations and the entire international community.

On this memorable day I would like to single out the contribution made and still being made by the selfless struggle waged by the Angolan people, led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, for Angola's independence, freedom, and social progress, and by the Angolan government's constructive foreign policy.

The successful conclusion of the talks became possible thanks to the changed climate in international relations, which is increasingly characterized by the desire to solve even the most complex questions by political means and on the basis of a balance of interests.

The relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries have been vividly demonstrated during Angola's years of hardship. Now that conditions are emerging for Angola's transition to peaceful development, I express the hope that they will be further strengthened and improved.

With friendly greetings

[Signed] M. Gorbachev

Greets SWAPO's Nujoma

*PM2312115988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
23 Dec 88 Second Edition p 1*

[Undated M.S. Gorbachev message to SWAPO President Sam Nujoma on signing of southwest Africa agreements]

[Text] To Comrade Sam Nujoma, president of the South West Africa People's Organization [SWAPO]

Esteemed Comrade President!

I share your feeling of satisfaction in connection with the New York signing of the agreements on a settlement in southwest Africa. An important step has been taken toward Namibia's attainment of independence—the lofty goal for which Namibia's patriots headed by SWAPO are struggling.

We note with gratification the constructive contribution made by SWAPO and by you personally to the achievement of this agreement. The Soviet Union will continue to invariably stand on the side of the Namibian people's just cause.

With comradely greetings

[Signed] M. Gorbachev

Pallayev Returns From Madagascar, Mauritius

*PM2312120488 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Dec 88 Morning Edition p 4*

[TASS report under general heading "Official Announcements"]

[Text] On 21 December a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by G. Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, returned to Moscow. It was in Madagascar on an official visit at the invitation of the Popular National Assembly. The deputies also visited Mauritius.

West Europe

Turkish Minister Received in Moscow for Talks

Meets Shevardnadze, Katushev

*LD2712175288 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1655 GMT 27 Dec 88*

[Text] Moscow, 27 Dec (TASS)—Soviet-Turkish political consultations were held on 26-27 December.

Nuzhet Kandemir, first deputy foreign minister of Turkey, who came to Moscow on an official visit, was received for talks by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs. He also had a meeting with Konstantin Katushev, USSR minister of foreign economic relations.

During intensive talks, conducted on the Soviet side by Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister, there was confirmation of the agreement that exists between the governments of the two countries to actively promote the constructive development of Soviet-Turkish relations in the spirit of genuine good-neighbornliness and mutually favorable cooperation.

All the necessary conditions exist for the USSR and Turkey to make specific bilateral relations more dynamic and to advance them to a level in keeping with the positive trends in present international relations.

Here much attention was given to the far-reaching Soviet initiatives put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech at the session of the UN General Assembly. There was an exchange of opinion on regional problems and questions of arms limitation and reduction.

On the Soviet side stress was laid on the stability of the course of developing good relations with neighboring Turkey in keeping with the principles of the new political thinking. It was stated that significant possibilities are being opened up in this field in the process of the revolutionary restructuring being carried out in the USSR. There is satisfaction at the growth of positive

elements in the whole complex of Soviet-Turkish relations, including political dialogue, new forms and directions for commercial and economic cooperation, and the expansion of scientific and cultural exchanges.

Nuzhet Kandemir noted Ankara's sincere readiness to continue to promote major progress in all basic spheres of Turkish-Soviet cooperation, based on the right combination of both countries' national interests.

Overall, the talks and conversations in Moscow marked the heightened level of mutual understanding in the onward development of relations between the USSR and Turkey.

Interviewed on Results

*LD2712202688 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1800 GMT 27 Dec 88*

[From the "Vremya" newscast; interview with Nuzhet Kandemir, Turkish first deputy foreign minister, by correspondent Yuriy Rostov; Kandemir speaks in English with superimposed Russian translation; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kandemir] I consider the results of the visit to be very positive. Consultations took place with my Soviet counterparts, and I had the opportunity to meet with Mr Shevardnadze. We examined bilateral relations in all spheres. These relations are developing rapidly. We believe that Turkey and the Soviet Union should have very good, friendly and good-neighbourly relations. This is now becoming a reality.

[Rostov] The transition from military to civilian rule in Turkey has brought changes in your policy. There have been reports of hopes for a way out of the Cyprus impasse. Is it true that there is now a move in Turkey toward a review of the laws restricting political activity?

[Kandemir] Turkey is a parliamentary democracy, and within the framework of its constitution and existing laws everyone is free to speak and write what he believes necessary. Turkey is progressing in this direction. It is a part of both Europe and Asia; therefore Turkey is a bridge

between Europe and Asia. It is a country with an important geographical and strategic situation. It is a neighbor of the Soviet Union. And, of course, the prospects for our future cooperation are good.

[Rostov] How do you see political contacts between the two countries developing?

[Kandemir] I believe they will develop rapidly. There are many regional and global problems in which our positions are close. I sensed this during the current consultations. [video shows Rostov and Kandemir in discussion]

Ends Moscow Visit, Departs

*LD2812102988 Moscow TASS in English 1018 GMT
28 Dec 88*

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—Turkish First Deputy Foreign Minister Nuzhet Kandemir who had been in Moscow on an official visit, left the Soviet Union on Wednesday.

He was seen off by his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and other officials.

Joint Enterprise Agreement Signed With Spain

*LD2812082088 Moscow TASS in English 0811 GMT
28 Dec 88*

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—Documents on creating a joint Soviet-Spanish industrial enterprise were signed here on Tuesday. It will produce high-quality aluminium alloys using scrap metal as raw material, as well as pre-fabricated metal structures and consumer goods.

The joint enterprise named Intersplav has been created by the Splavsvetmet Research and Production Association and the Spanish firm Remetal S.A. The first stage of Intersplav's work envisages the rebuilding of the Sverdlovsk plant of aluminium alloys in the Voroshilovgrad region, the Ukraine, and the increase of its capacity by 50 per cent. Overall expenditures will amount to 42 million roubles. Later on part of its output will be sold in the world market through the Spanish firm's trade network.

Intersplav's founding capital is 18 million roubles. The Soviet side's share is 60 per cent. The Spanish side will supply equipment and know-how.

Political & Social

Further on Aftermath of Armenian Earthquake

Bush's Son, Grandson Visit

LD2512200088 Moscow Television Service
in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; reporter V. Ryazanov video report from Armenia—recorded]

[Text] Zvartnots airport: Early this morning, an aircraft chartered by (?American) charity arrived from Washington. This provides aid for children which have suffered from natural disasters in 30 countries of the world. On board this aircraft were the son and grandson of the newly elected president of the United States, George Bush. [video shows aircraft taxiing, shot of Bush's son and grandson descending steps of aircraft, being greeted at bottom of ramp, being interviewed on the tarmac surrounded by journalists]

[Ryazanov provides Russian translation of what Bush's son says in English to the journalists] We have brought this for the Armenian people on Christmas Day. As we landed, it was already Christmas in Miami, where we live. We have brought 40 tonnes of medicines, blankets, baby food, and toys which have been donated by private companies and children from throughout the United States.

[Ryazanov then provides Russian translation of what Bush's grandson says] It is a great honor for me to present these toys, which have been donated for the Armenian children.

[Video shows shots taken from a moving vehicle passing along a rubble-lined road, showing extensive devastation, collapsed buildings] Spitak. The awful blow of the elements was particularly strong here. The town is in ruins. U.S. rescuers are restoring it together with Soviet people. John Bush said thousands of Americans would like to be here now to aid those who have been stricken. [Video shows Bush again speaking to journalists. Video then switches to an indoor scene where Arutyunyan and Bush are seen, surrounded by journalists]

And Yerevan again—a meeting with Suren Gurgenovitch Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee. He cordially thanked the American guests, and asked for the gratitude of the Armenian people to be conveyed to the newly elected president of the United States, George Bush, and to all Americans for their sincere sympathy and unselfish aid.

John Bush and the younger George Bush were received by the supreme patriarch Catholicos of all Armenians, Vazgen I. [video shows this meeting]

In these difficult days for Armenia, this aid is especially necessary for children. The third city children's hospital: 540 children with most serious injuries have arrived here from the earthquake regions. The skill of the doctors and modern medical equipment which was urgently delivered and installed by specialists, including those from the United States—we spoke about this in one of our reports—was unable to save many children's lives.

During these meetings, the young George Bush and his Armenian peers understood each other without an interpreter. The children of the whole world have the same joys and there is no greater grief than when a mother and father is no longer at hand, and when dear ones and relatives have died. At such a bitter time, how necessary are words of compassion and the hand of a friend. [Video shows hospital corridor and staff, children in their beds with bandaged heads and limbs; the Bushes standing beside them]

And these paintings by the Yerevan artist, (Samvel Spartamyan) are a gift for the guests. [Video shows a woman in a white medical coat presenting the pictures to the Bushes]

Yerevan Reports Activities

NC2712095588 Yerevan International Service
in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The son and grandson of U.S. President-elect George Bush arrived in Armenia yesterday on board a plane carrying medical supplies and gifts from American children to Armenian children. The U.S. guests visited Spitak, the city which was almost totally destroyed by the earthquake. They spoke with citizens in the streets who were still searching the debris. John and George Bush, the president-elect's son and grandson, gave presents and toys to children undergoing treatment at Yerevan's Children's Hospital after being transferred to this hospital from the devastated areas.

John and George met with Suren Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia's Central Committee, and Catholicos Vazgen I, supreme patriarch of the Armenian Church.

Poor Construction Noted

OW2812022888 Tokyo KYODO in English 0140 GMT
28 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 27 KYODO—A Japanese expert said here Tuesday that the recent earthquake disaster in Soviet Armenia was made worse by poor building construction methods which failed to incorporate earthquake preventive measures.

Kikuo Moriya, a professor on earthquake disasters at Nihon University in Tokyo, said many high-rise buildings which collapsed in the December 7 tremor had no

reinforcing bars and there were weak joints between pillars and beams. Floor panels had not been bolted to the adjacent building structure, he said.

Moriya, who has recently surveyed the Armenian region, said the intensity of the tremor appeared to have been 5 on the Japanese earthquake scale of 7 in Spitak, where almost all the buildings collapsed in the tremor. He based his judgment on damage to nearby tombs, chimneys and utility polls.

Moriya also cited shallow foundations and the use of balloon frame construction without sufficient vertical supports as reasons for the great damage to buildings.

The earthquake killed tens of thousands of people and left many thousands of others homeless, and rescue of the injured people and reconstruction of towns have been carried out with help from Japan and many other countries.

Memorial Service Held

NC2712130688 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Excerpt] A memorial service was held last Sunday for the victims of the earthquake in the Mother Church of Echmiadzin. A large number of believers from various parts of the republic and the diaspora, as well as Soviet and foreign journalists, attended the service in the Mother Church.

The mass was conducted by Archbishop Zareh Aznavryan (Antilias). Before the prayers, the catholicos of all Armenians, Vazgen I, and the catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia, Garegin II, walked up to the altar.

The patriarch of all Armenians faced the people and presented His Holiness Catholicos Garegin II to them. He said:

"Dear mournful people:

"Today we prepare to perform memorial services for a second time and to pray for the souls of the victims of our great earthquake.

"Today, however, His Holiness Catholicos Garegin II of the Holy See of Cilicia joins our prayers with his. As you know, today the Cilician See occupies the second place after Holy Echmiadzin in the hierarchy of our holy church. The Cilician See, which reminds us of the historic Armenian Cilicia, was forced, after the genocide of World War I, to abandon its homeland and to take sanctuary in the fraternal and friendly Arab nation of Lebanon where it established its seat in Antilias as the Catholicosate of the Holy See of Cilicia.

"We are deeply touched by the visit His Holiness Catholicos Garegin II is paying with his entourage, which includes His Beatitude Archbishop Zareh—who will be

the officiating priest in today's mass—and Attorney Khachig Babikian, the chairman of the Administrative Center of the Holy See of Cilicia and a well-known political personality who has served several times as a minister in the Lebanese Cabinet and who represents the Armenian community in the Lebanese Parliament.

"The visit of our dear brother Garegin II symbolizes not only the indivisible unity and the fraternal cooperation of our church, but also the unity of our nation in terms of diaspora-motherland ties and the solidarity with the government of our motherland. I believe that in these days of misfortune the visit of His Holiness to Armenia and Holy Echmiadzin is also important in the following sense. Overseas, there are numerous Armenian organizations and associations, all of which have their own plans, think in their own way, and do not always agree with each other. This is natural. However, in these days of misfortune, the Armenians in foreign countries have acted with a single heart and a single soul. They have put aside all the other issues, and they stand by the side of the mournful people of Armenia and the government of our motherland. They are prepared to extend their helping hand to realize important accomplishments and even to rebuild our devastated cities and villages together and collectively. They are prepared to contribute to the great patriotic work of reconstruction. The unity of the diaspora Armenians sets a good example for us, the Soviet Armenians, not to engage in any disorderliness, at least at this time, to unite around a single cause, to set aside all problems that may or will exist, and to unite all the people of Armenia, without any exceptions, on the side of the government of our motherland with one heart and one soul." [passage omitted]

Joint Statement Issued

NC2812101488 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] In an appeal to the Armenian people, the catholicos of all Armenians, Vazgen I, and the catholicos of Cilicia, Garegin II, say in particular: We feel that our grief over this horrible calamity is mitigated by the unanimous and unreserved love and the spirit of solidarity with which our entire nation in Armenia as well as the diaspora set themselves to the concrete work of healing and helping with one heart and one soul. We welcome this wonderful and commendable stance with immense pontifical love, and we pray and urge that it continue to contribute its goodness to the sacred task of rebuilding our nation in the same manner and with the same growing spirit.

The [words indistinct] leaders call on the people to continue contributing their share of work and sacrifice to alleviate the suffering of their disaster-stricken compatriots, to console them with a caring heart, and to contribute generously to the work of rebuilding the devastated cities and villages with spiritual vigor and national unity, with one heart and soul and in an organized and planned manner.

The appeal made to the people concludes: We call upon all our sincere people in Armenia and the diaspora to consider the sacred task of assisting the disaster victims and rebuilding the devastated cities and villages as their supreme duty, and to set to work with lofty awareness, purposefulness, and discipline.

Health Minister Comments

LD2412231188 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1800 GMT 24 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] About 11,000 of the victims of the earthquake in Armenia have been brought to the clinics of Moscow, Yerevan, Tbilisi, and other towns. More than 6,000 have undergone treatment and have been discharged from the hospitals. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [V.D. Fedorov, academician of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences and director of the Vishnevskiy Surgical Institute in Moscow, identified by screen caption] For the majority of the patients, the period when we were fighting to save their lives has practically passed. Other problems are currently arising—problems of treating serious injuries, bone injuries—so that we can henceforth move on to the next stage, the rehabilitation of the victims, that is, their return to work, insofar as possible. This includes matters relating to prosthetics and plastic surgery, which have made it possible for patients to return to as normal a life as possible.

[Unidentified correspondent] The aid headquarters at the USSR Ministry of Health works round the clock. It is led by Deputy Minister Aleksey Mikhaylovich Moskvichev. The dispatch of medical teams to Armenia, the distribution of the injured to clinics, the transfer of medicine and equipment—all this is decided here. Health Minister Yevgeniy Ivanovich Chazov has a direct line to Yerevan. [video shows the headquarters at work, cutting to interview with Chazov]

[Chazov] Well, as I have already said, the clinical situation is completely favorable, there are no serious cases there. They have 14 cases of acute bowel disorders throughout the region, I think there is more in Moscow, probably, the average among the population, even, is greater than there. So, I think that monitoring helps in resolving all matters.

[Correspondent] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, what purely medical lessons can be learned from this situation?

[Chazov] Well, I have to say this: One thing is clear for us today, that we have to set up an emergency medical service, if I may call it that. Since the very first days, as soon as we started work in Armenia, we set up a group that is developing such a system. How do we envisage it? What form should it take, at least the first outlines? This is a central control service in Moscow, we think based on

our central, Vishnevskiy General Surgical Institute. If need be, all territorial departmental health services have to be subordinated to this national central control service. Apart from this, we should set up three support centers in which we would store essential medical equipment, stocks of blood substitutes, medicines and so on, such emergency stores, at which there would be based several helicopters, aircraft, mobile transport, road vehicles, hovercraft transport—in short, everything that is needed for the deployment on the spot of speedy medical aid and urgent evacuation. We envisage having three such centers: one somewhere near Moscow or in Moscow; one in the regions of Central Asia, where we are currently discussing it; and one in Siberia. [end recording]

Shalaye on Temporary Resettlement

NC2412142788 Yerevan International Service
in Armenian 1630 GMT 23 Dec 88

[Text] The president of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions Stepan Shalaye held a briefing in Yerevan yesterday for the representatives of the press. Shalaye spoke about the coordination of relief work and assistance to victims in the earthquake disaster area. He stated that (?work is under way) to resettle temporarily [words indistinct] from the devastated areas. More than 49,000 women, children and [word indistinct] men already have been settled in the best sanatoriums in Georgia, (?Sokhum) and Crimea.

[Words indistinct] have been settled in sanatoriums in resting homes in Armenia. [sentence indistinct] At the same time, the quake victims are being given substantial financial assistance. Approximately 200,000 people (?will receive) a one-time benefit of R100 per family member. At the initiative of the Central Council of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, R120 million has been appropriated for the purpose of state [word indistinct]. Shalaye then responded to the journalists' questions.

Aid Continues To Arrive for Earthquake Victims

Writers Union Gives R6 Million

NC2712140188 Yerevan International Service
in Armenian 1630 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] The USSR Union of Writers has set aside R6 million to assist the victims of the earthquake. During [word indistinct], the secretary of the Administration, poet [name indistinct], said: We express our deep condolences to the people of Armenia on behalf of all Soviet writers. We mourn for the victims, together with their brothers, sisters, and kinfolk. In this moment of tragedy for the entire Armenian nation, the Soviet writers are united in [word indistinct] to do everything possible to alleviate the effects of the tragedy for their fraternal [word indistinct].

[Name indistinct] also stated that the USSR Union of Writers has endorsed a resolution to [words indistinct]. In addition to philanthropic measures [words indistinct]. He added: I have been in Armenia several times, and I have many friends there. I am certain that the Armenian people will use their characteristic [word indistinct] in this grave moment of calamity.

Meanwhile, as has been previously reported, numerous foreign nations, private organizations, and individuals have offered to help the victims of the powerful earthquake that occurred in the northern part of the republic, and to rebuild the ruined settlement areas. By the decision of the Armenian Council of Ministers, Account 0700001 has been set up in the Yerevan city (?branch) of [words indistinct] of the Soviet Foreign (?Economic) Bank for these groups, as well as for organizations and citizens who have [words indistinct] accounts.

Polish, Dutch Aid Cited

LD2812083188 Moscow TASS in English 0736 GMT
28 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—TASS correspondents report:

A campaign to raise funds to help Armenia's earthquake-stricken population continues in the Netherlands. The Dutch Red Cross reported on Wednesday that five million guilders had already been deposited in a special bank account.

The money is being spent on medicines, warm clothes, tents and food supplies which are sent to Soviet Armenia by plane and trucks. While shopping with their parents before Christmas many Dutch children asked for two presents, one for themselves and one to be sent to their Armenian peers.

A group of Polish rescuers who returned home from Armenia on Tuesday was given a warm welcome in Poland. The team included firemen from Warsaw, Wroclaw and other towns as well as mining rescuers from Katowice, Lublin and Szklarska Poreba.

Jerzy Szmajdzinski, chairman of the central board of the Union of Socialist Polish Youth, and Soviet ambassador to Poland Vladimir Brovikov have presented the Polish rescuers with diplomas in recognition of their selfless work in Soviet Armenia at a special ceremony in their honour.

Colonel Mihal Kurczontkowski, head of the Polish rescue team, spoke about rescue operations in the flattened Armenian town of Spitak.

"We worked from morning till night in very hard conditions: in heavy wind and severe frosts. We tried to help everybody we could," he said.

Polish young people will also help rebuild quake-destroyed Armenian cities and villages, Polish officials said at the ceremony.

Further Aid Received

LD2812082688 Moscow TASS in English 0805 GMT
28 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—Hokkaido fishermen have donated 800,000 Japanese yen to the Armenia earthquake aid fund. Takao Kitaguchi, the head of a delegation of the Association of Trawling Fishing Cooperatives, said at a meeting with Vyacheslav Zilanov, USSR deputy minister of fisheries, on Wednesday: "Japan is a land of frequent earthquakes, and we know what earthquakes are. What has happened in Armenia is our common misfortune, we are sharing it. 800,000 yen are only part of the money we are to donate to the fund. The money raising campaign is continuing on the island. [no end quotation marks received]

Large sums of money have been received from joint firms, formed with the participation of enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Fisheries: 30,000 dollars came from the Soviet-American firm Sovam, 10,000 dollars—from the Soviet-Spanish Sovispan, 5,000 transferable roubles—from the Moscow side of the Soviet-French firm Fransov, 10,000 dollars—from the Portuguese firm Constanta. Reports on fishermen donating money continue coming in.

The Soviet Peace Fund has donated 15 million roubles, as emergency aid to Armenia, over and above 20 million roubles allocated earlier. The money will be used to build a hospital, a school and children's pre-school institutions in areas hit by the devastating earthquake.

One can see the words "the money raised will go to the Armenia earthquake fund" on many theatre and concert bills these days. Charity meetings are being arranged by unions of Soviet writers, composers and film-makers, and sales of works of art—by artists. These are, among others, Illarion Golitsyn's triptych "Armenia's Grief", Dmitriy Krymov's drawing "Lamentations", Vyacheslav Sysoyev's placard "Help". The fees have been donated to the Armenia earthquake fund.

Monetary Benefits Specified for Quake Victims

NC2412070988 Yerevan ARMENPRES International
Service
in Armenian 1215 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] In accordance with the decisions of the USSR Council of Ministers on 15 December and the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers on 17 December regarding aid to the population affected by the earthquake, the government of the republic has specified the following arrangements for paying one-time benefits to the population affected by the earthquake to compensate them for their material losses:

1. The executive committees of regional and city Soviets will oversee in their respective areas the one-time payment of 200 rubles to each person affected by the earthquake, a supplementary payment of 2,000 [or 4,000—Cyrillic character is unclear] rubles to each family which has lost its breadwinner and 500 rubles to each family to bury each family member lost. For that purpose, the executive committees of the said soviets have formed special commissions which are made up of the employees of financial institutions, enterprises and organizations, representatives of social organizations, and people's deputies.

The benefits will be paid through the [word indistinct] divisions of the banking institutions of the citizens' permanent place of residence and the reserves of the executive committees of the appropriate soviets.

To receive benefits, citizens who have been affected by the earthquake will initially be given special coupons with nominal values of 200,500 and 2,000 [or 4,000—Cyrillic character is unclear] rubles.

2. Compensation for property citizens lost due to the earthquake, such as homes, cabins, summer homes, mobile homes, commercial structures, household goods, fruit trees, uninsured livestock, passenger cars, and other transport vehicles, will be disbursed on the basis of the conclusions of the special professional commissions formed by the executive committees of the appropriate regional or city soviets. The said commissions are made up of the employees of financial and state insurance institutions, specialists from the technical property recording organization, representatives of social organizations, and people's deputies.

The compensation will be made from budgetary resources appropriated for this purpose and from funds at the disposal of state insurance organizations. State insurance organizations will provide full compensation for the loss of insured livestock.

The Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR recommended on 18 December that on the basis of the assessments of the people's deputies and the health organizations of the executive committees of local soviets, appropriate clothing, shoes, underwear, and other material be provided to citizens who have been placed in hospitals, hospices, sanatoriums and other health centers as a result of the earthquake. The cost of these materials will be charged to the market funds of trade organizations and will not exceed 150 rubles per person.

The Ministries of Light Industry and Local Industry of the Armenian SSR have been instructed to supply the Ministry of Trade of the Armenian SSR and the administration of Armen-Co-op with all essential materials on the basis of the latter's assessments.

The Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR has also asked spas and tourist organizations located outside the republic to clothe citizens affected by the earthquake at their own expense and to ask for reimbursement of up to 150 rubles per person by providing concise information on expenses to the Armenian Ministry of Finance.

Armenian Central Committee Bureau Meets

*NC2812100188 Yerevan Domestic Service in Russian
0630 GMT 28 Dec 88*

[From the review of KOMMUNIST]

[Text] The paper reports on the meeting of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau, which discussed the question of serious shortcomings in enlightenment work on issues of interethnic relations by the republic's mass information and propaganda media.

It was noted that, at the CPSU Central Committee meetings between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies representing the Armenian and Azerbaijani SSR's, the leadership of both republics and of Nagorno-Karabakh were quite rightly told that the press of Azerbaijan and Armenia has not infrequently with its ill-considered and unevaluated publications allowed seditious calls, played on national feelings, and been swayed by anti-restructuring forces. As a result, passions are inflamed, tension becomes even more charged, and serious harm is done to relations between two peoples.

The Bureau of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee drew the attention of the heads of press organs, ARMENPRES, and the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting to the unsatisfactory fulfillment of their official duties. As a result, prejudicial material not conducive to normalizing the state of affairs in the republic was published in the press and broadcast on the air. They have been warned that they bear personal responsibility for the political content of published material.

As their main task, mass information organs must effectively contribute to the unification and consolidation of the working people on positions of internationalism, friendship, and unity of Soviet peoples. They must show on a broad basis the huge and selfless aid provided to the Armenian SSR on the part of the fraternal republics in connection with the natural disaster.

It was noted at the Central Committee's Bureau that, at the same time, agent provocateurs from the Karabakh Committee, exploiting the calamity that has befallen the Armenian people and despite the complicated situation, are pushing people to interethnic strife, inflaming hostility, and defaming genuine beliefs. And all this is happening at a time when the Armenian people have felt

in all its magnitude the great power of Soviet internationalism, when in this hour of tragedy our sorrow is shared by the whole country and supported by all the peoples of the world.

The Central Committee Bureau examined the staff structure of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, the organizational structure of the administration of the State Committee of the Armenian SSR on Television and Radio Broadcasting, and the general administrative tables of the Ministry of Communications of the Armenian SSR, and the State Committee of the Armenian SSR for the Preservation of the Environment.

Other questions relating to the socio-economic life of the republic were also discussed.

Transport Program Operational

NC2812101988 Yerevan Domestic Service
in Russian 0630 GMT 28 Dec 88

[From the review of KOMMUNIST]

[Text] The paper reports on the tasks that were brought up at the regular session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Commission. The session was presided over by USSR Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman Batalin.

It was emphasized at the session that, thanks to energetic organizational work, the program of complex measures worked out 2 days ago for increasing the movement of trains carrying goods to the disaster area and speeding up the unloading of freight cars has already gone into operation.

Karabakh Committee Seeks Armenian Destabilization

PM2812120988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 27 Dec 88 First Edition p 4

[Captain Third Rank A. Orlov report: "A Neighbor in Need Is a Neighbor Indeed"]

[Text] Morning: Yerevan is lit by a cold sunlight. People stand at the bus stops. The transport system is filled. Yerevaners are hurrying to work. Enterprises are operating as normal, and many are working a double shift.

We chat with workers near the "Armstanok" plant. Today there are probably two questions bothering Yerevaners most of all: the elimination of the aftermath of the earthquake and prospects for the development of mutual relations between the two nationalities—Armenians and Azerbaijanis. There is a lot of earthquake news in the local newspapers. But as for the national question, people are perplexed: There is insufficient information, and no clear-cut positions have been declared with regard to what is worrying everyone.

"Do you know what would open everyone's eyes to what is going on?" one person asks temperamentally. He refuses to give his name. "Extensive information on how and with what Azerbaijan is helping Armenia. Is it helping us or not?"...

The crowd is silent. Some time back you only had to talk with representatives of Armenian nationality about Azerbaijanis and emotions would be unleashed. But now the ordinary people are sick and tired of the cackling of nationalist slogans. They are reaching for the truth; they themselves want to get to the bottom of everything.

But what is the truth? The bitter truth is that there have been extremist nationalist outbursts in Azerbaijan. They have still not died down completely. But the important truth, the main truth, is that all the same, working Azerbaijan reacted with anguish to its neighbor's calamity. In the very first days the neighboring republic dispatched more than 100 cranes, bulldozers, and excavators to the disaster area. It shipped out over 70,000 tonnes of gasoline, aviation fuel, and diesel fuel. The victims received 1,200 tonnes of liquid bitumen, 90,000 tonnes of fuel oil, and 2,800 tonnes of oils and other fuel and lubricant materials. Some 20 mobile filling stations and tank trucks are now operating in the area of Leninakan, Spitak, and Kirovakan. A large quantity of water-supply pipes and cabling has been sent here. Teams of Baku oxyacetylene cutters and other specialists have been toiling intensely in the special region from the first days. Ten comprehensive medical teams with ambulances gave first aid to the victims. The Azerbaijan Civil Aviation Administration has been involved in the freight shipment, and the Azerbaijan sector of the Transcaucasus Railroad has been working intensively. A communist subbotnik was held in Azerbaijan 16-17 December whose proceeds—R2 million—have been paid into the Armenia aid fund. In all Azerbaijan has put R5 million into account number 700412.

No, Azerbaijan has not remained on the sidelines. A civil defense unit which arrived from Baku in the very first days is working in Leninakan on eliminating the aftermath of the earthquake. Thirty-six injured Leninakan residents owe their lives to an Azerbaijani military doctor, Lieutenant Colonel D. Yusitov. I recalled a meeting I had with Lieutenant Colonel S. Afyev, also an Azerbaijani. In the space of 24 hours the regiment in which he serves completed a march of many kilometers, taking with it the entire stock of tents, stoves, and provisions. I confess I could not stop myself from asking how he felt about coming to assist Armenia. The lieutenant colonel gave me a puzzled look: "I only felt one thing—to get here as fast as possible"...

And here is an entry in my notebook: Azerbaijanis Sergeant G. Samedov and Private E. Saryyev pulled five people alive from the ruins of Leninakan. Azerbaijani Sergeant M. Gadzhiyev rescued an Armenian child.

These are not isolated examples. It is necessary that as many people in Armenia as possible know about them.

I had to tell the workers outside the "Armstanok" plant the following: Lt Col D. Yusitov has recently begun to receive anonymous threats. The fate of some freight shipments en route from Azerbaijan to Armenia is unknown. The other day leaflets appeared at the garrison hospital in Yerevan: threats to doctors and medical personnel because there are Azerbaijanis in the hospital for treatment alongside the Armenian sick. They had in mind Reserve Private F. Ballayev, motor vehicle mechanic from Baku, who was the sole survivor of the IL-76 crash. Threats have also been made to the hospital by telephone.

All these actions, intimidation, and demands for Azerbaijanis to clear out of the disaster region indicate that some people really don't want the Armenian people to know that Azerbaijan has not ignored its neighbor's misfortune.

But why "some people"? This is a quite definite group of people. Following the arrest of seven leaders of the officially disbanded "Karabakh" committee confusion reigned among its activists only for a time. Newly created subcommittees are now trying to operate in VUZ's, at enterprises, and in various rayons of the city. The working class is dealing them a rebuff, but the "Karabakh" activists are, as before, seeking to realize their leaders' goals. The main objective is the destabilization of the situation in the republic.

The true face of the new champions of Armenia's national interests have long been known to the working people and the ordinary people. The struggle for power is the mainspring of their activity. They shun no methods here; they even exploit the most painful things. Here is the latest example: An attempt has been made in Yerevan to disseminate a leaflet in the name of the "Movement for the Nation's Self-Determination," which was headed by I. Muradyan, leader of the first "Karabakh" committee. The authors of the leaflet speculate on the tragedy in Leninakan, Kirovakan, Spitak, and other regions of Armenia. They pose the question: Where have the resources from the assistance rendered gone to? The entire system of rendering aid to the inhabitants of the stricken areas is being put in doubt. Instead of the officially announced Armenian aid account known to every Soviet, the authors cite their own address, to which it is suggested that money be sent. It is understandable into what "aid" they intend to channel the money.

Meanwhile the migration of the population in both republics is extremely alarming. The refugee situation has not yet stabilized. Homes abandoned, human ties broken—such is the price the ordinary people are paying for the adventurist intrigues of the extremist elements.

Military Commandant Reports Situation in Baku

'Peace' Prevails

*NC2812080388 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
1700 GMT 24 Dec 88*

[Notice by Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District, on 24 December]

[Text] Peace continued to prevail in Baku yesterday, which has contributed toward maintaining a normal daily life and work rhythm in the city. The Internal Affairs Ministry organs are continuing to detain individuals who provoke the holding of demonstrations and meetings. City workers are not supporting the calls made for demonstrations and meetings.

Industrial, transportation, trade, and other establishments have been working according to work schedules.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District

No Violations on 25 Dec

*NC2812080788 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
1700 GMT 25 Dec 88*

[Notice by Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District, on 25 December]

[Text] The commandant of the Baku City Special District announces that the situation in the city has not changed. On Sunday, the city workers occupied themselves with whatever interested them and with whatever they wished to do. No violations of public law and order were recorded.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District

Baku Remains Calm

*NC2812105788 Baku Domestic Service in Russian 1000
GMT 28 Dec 88*

[Notice from Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of Baku City Special District, on 28 December]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, the situation has remained calm. As reported from the various rayons of the city, the opening of theaters, movie houses, the circus, and other spectator halls has been received with approval by the population. No violations of public order were noted in this connection.

At the same time, 34 persons and 12 automobiles have been detained for violations of the curfew, and 18 persons have been detained in accordance with the 23 November 1988 decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

[Signed] Colonel General Tyagunov, military commandant of the Baku City Special District

'Large Number' of Arms Seized in Azerbaijan

NC2812081088 *Tehran International Service*
in Turkish 1700 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Unrest continues in the Azerbaijan SSR. Baku Television reported last night that a large number of arms, about 4,968, were seized in the republic. A number of them were voluntarily handed over to the security forces by their owners.

The report made no reference to clashes and demonstrations. However, it said that 23 people were detained for failing to comply with military measures.

Uzbek Supreme Soviet Rejects 1989 Draft Plan

LD2712133388 *Moscow TASS in English* 1319 GMT
27 Dec 88

[Text] Tashkent December 27 TASS—TASS correspondent Yefim Yefimov reports:

Deputies of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet have rejected a draft plan of the republic's socio-economic development for 1989 submitted by the Uzbek Government.

This is without precedent. The following procedure was developed and repeatedly used in the past: Deputies of the republican parliament read a draft plan on the eve of the session, discussed it quickly and formally at the session and "unanimously" approved it. They invariably counted on the republican council of ministers to correct possible mistakes. The democratisation of all the spheres of Soviet life, the development of glasnost and a reform of the political system which is underway in the country made the previous system obsolete.

A thorough and competent discussion of the draft plan revealed, among other things, unreasonably low plan targets for many industries. Representatives of ministries were invited to attend sessions of permanent commissions of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet which are in charge of various branches of the economy and the social sphere. In the course of joint work they drew up realistic and well-founded plan guidelines. They decided to increase industrial output by 298 million roubles and agricultural output by 170 million roubles as against the previous draft plan. Tens of millions of roubles first earmarked for the construction of apartment houses, schools and hospitals, especially in the countryside. Deputies proved that the removal of those resources from the production sphere could be well compensated by better management, the use of advanced technologies and support for initiatives. The new corrected version of the draft plan was approved at a regular session of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet.

"The reform of the political system implemented in this country has enhanced the role of representative bodies of power. Until recently we got together two or three times a year to attend sessions that discussed several questions. Now a step has been made towards permanent participation of deputies in the solution of political, economic and social problems. Twelve permanent commissions are working between sessions which include two thirds of the deputies of the republican supreme soviet", said Academician Pulat Khabibullayev, president of the Presidium of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet.

Baltic Party Leaders Attend Riga Conference

LD2312234388 *Moscow Television Service in Russian*
1800 GMT 23 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A party conference of the Red Banner Baltic military district was held in Riga today. There was a keen and constructive discussion on ways of intensifying the restructuring of party political work and of augmenting efforts to implement the directives of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

Taking part in the conference were the first secretaries of the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia—Comrades Brazauskas, Vagris, and Valjas.

Latvian Forum Proposals on Ethnic Issues

PM2312131788 *Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA*
in Russian 15 Dec 88 p 3

["Proposals by Delegates to the Forum of Latvian SSR Peoples to the CPSU Central Committee Plenum 'On Improving Interethnic Relations in the USSR'"—SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA headline]

[Text] The delegates to the Forum of Latvian SSR Peoples support the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference resolution "On Interethnic Relations." The preparations for the CPSU Central Committee plenum "On Improving Interethnic Relations in the USSR" should be a new stage in the life of our country's nations and ethnic groups and in interethnic relations.

The delegates to the Forum of Latvian SSR Peoples believe that in the sphere of national relations there have been distortions and substantial deviations from Lenin's teaching on the peoples' self-determination and equality. Inadequate provision is made for the development of individual nations and national, ethnic, and ethnographic groups. Serious problems have also arisen in the development of the Latvian nation—for the first time in its history it has become a minority in its own land because of an excessively mechanical increase in its population.

The interests of the harmonious development and unity of the multinational community of Soviet peoples demands recognition of and guaranteed rights for all peoples and provision for the existence and development of all peoples, while taking into account the legitimate interests of all nations and national, ethnic, and ethnographic groups and their desire to protect and preserve their own national identity and national consciousness. All peoples and all languages are universal human assets that should always be protected. The state must guarantee the free development of every language and every people. National and linguistic differences are no obstacle to the achievement of working people's unity. Notions about the fusing of nations in the very near future must be considered groundless.

The delegates to the Forum of Latvian SSR Peoples express the hope that the CPSU Central Committee plenum will devise a nationalities policy concept that conforms to restructuring. In the delegates' view, this concept must also incorporate the following conclusions and areas of practical activity:

—It is necessary to implement in full the Leninist principles of the structure of the USSR and consistently implement the teaching, elaborated by V.I. Lenin, of a federation of socialist states, a union of free and sovereign republics, whose members have identical rights and real opportunities to implement their sovereignty. The USSR Constitution is to define the content and extent of the sovereignty of the union republic as a component of the USSR.

The influence of Stalin's idea of autonomization on the theory and practice of our legislation and of the running of the country should be eradicated once and for all. Crimes connected with the Stalin personality cult should be regarded as crimes against humanity. Deportations, including the deportations of 1941 and 1949, are to be deemed unconstitutional. In this connection a system of political and economic measures must be devised to restore the rights of deported peoples who were victims of repressive measures. It is necessary to treat sympathetically their desire to return home, without removing from the agenda the possibility of resurrecting the relevant national-state formations.

It is necessary to establish strict legal guarantees against excessive centralization and departmental tyranny. A principled struggle should be launched against attempts to justify such practices. USSR legislation must frame guarantees of the implementation of rights and of the principle of equality of nations and national, ethnic, and ethnographic groups. —When reviewing the constitutional norms of Soviet national-state organization it is necessary to be consistently guided by the principles of expanding the rights of union republics and autonomous formations and harmonizing relations between the USSR and the republics in accordance with the common interests of decentralization. It is necessary to take into account the republics' proposals on the need to clearly

differentiate between sovereign rights implemented solely and exclusively by the republic itself and rights whose implementation is placed in the charge of central organs of legislative and executive power. It is necessary to acknowledge the rights of republics to solve matters of state language and citizenship autonomously, taking USSR legislation into account. The participation of representatives of all union republics in the work of commissions for the elaboration of USSR draft laws must be ensured. It is necessary to regulate in the USSR Constitution a range of vitally important questions which cannot be solved in all-union organs without the consent of the union republic, and also to determine the procedure for agreeing on and adopting such decisions.

—It is necessary to intensify the role and clarify the functions of the USSR Supreme Soviet of Nationalities in the solution of interethnic questions. If necessary, permanent deputies' commissions on matters of interethnic relations will be set up in any soviet of peoples deputies.

—It should be acknowledged that the real basis for the solution of the union republic's ethnic problems is its economic autonomy. To safeguard this the following rights are needed:

a) to autonomously elaborate long-term plans and programs for the development of the republic's economy. The State Plan for the Socioeconomic Development of the USSR and various programs for the economic and social development of the USSR should be adopted on the basis of coordinated documents adopted in advance by the union republics;

b) to set up, develop, close, or convert any production facility in accordance with the interests of state and republic, taking into account its potential and the ecological and demographic situation;

c) to specify agreed, predetermined deliveries to all-union stocks and participate in wholesale trade in raw materials and material and technical resources;

d) to have direct economic links with other union republics and conclude trade and other contracts with foreign firms;

e) to participate in the formation of the revenue part and distribution of the expenditure part of the union budget in accordance with a specially elaborated provision;

f) to set up in the republic a system of payments which will stimulate the development of the most important areas of production in terms of satisfying local needs and provide the republic with resources necessary for the implementation of its economic and social tasks; to determine the procedure and normatives for currency allocations to the republic budget from the volume of direct foreign trade freight operations and also from international cultural and other links;

g) to determine the procedure for the autonomous regulation by each republic of the process of internal and external population migration and for the elaboration and implementation of demographic policy in accordance with the ethnodemographic situation in the republic.

—It is necessary to define more clearly the rights and participation of union republics in USSR foreign policy activity. In accordance with the republics' potential, it is necessary to develop their international links, above all with neighboring countries, in the cultural, economic, scientific, ecological, and sports spheres. It is necessary to widen the union republics' involvement in nongovernmental international organizations and associations.

—Every republic must be given the opportunity, within the framework of the USSR Constitution, to implement an independent policy in the cultural sphere.

—Union republics must be in charge of solving questions of people's education, including the devising of academic programs, curricula, and textbooks.

—Republics should have a bigger role in developing science and training scientific cadres, and they should be granted the right to award and approve degrees for research in the history, geography, economics, culture, education, ethnography, language, ecology, and demography of the republic.

—The proposal on setting up an All-Union Institute of Ethnic Relations and corresponding research centers in the union republics must be supported. Comprehensive all-union and regional ethnosociological research must be extensively developed. The results must be made known to the public on a regular and objective basis, and statistics on the ethnic composition of the population of the USSR, the union republics, administrative and territorial units, and various social strata of the population and on ethnodemographic and ecological processes must be published openly.

—There should be a review of the attitude toward national-cultural autonomy in meeting the needs of various peoples, particularly extraterritorial ethnic groups, in the sphere of culture, education, and communication. It is necessary to define the legal status of the cultural societies (centers) of these ethnic groups and make material provision for their activity. Optimal conditions must be created for Soviet citizens who are resident outside or who do not have their own national-state formations to maintain links with their own nation and its culture.

It is necessary to positively assess the role and place of the growth of the peoples' national self-awareness in the process of the restructuring and democratization of public life. National self-awareness is one of the driving forces of our social and spiritual renewal. It is necessary to explain to the masses that international is not opposite

to national and that international does not mean non-national. It is necessary to condemn all attempts in the guise of internationalism to propagandize chauvinism and national nihilism, as well as attempts to substitute nationalist views for national ideas.

—In CPSU ideological activity it is necessary to pay more attention to the formation of healthy national consciousness. It is necessary to step up society's efforts to create a high standard of interethnic intercourse. A new system of international, national, and patriotic education should be devised, one that corresponds to the interests and needs of the modern man.

—There must be a substantial improvement in the standard of information and analysis items in the all-union press and on radio and television programs on ethnic processes taking place in the country. It is necessary to ensure that all the media give a comprehensive and objective picture of these processes and of the course of restructuring in the republics and do not allow an information vacuum to occur, let alone a distorted picture of the actual situation.

—It is necessary to publish a special all-union periodical on interethnic relations and the development of national cultures. Efforts should be made to assist the publication of new periodicals in the languages of the USSR peoples, including the languages of ethnic groups living in union republics.

Latvian Leader Meets With Popular Front Aides
PM2212165188 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA
in Russian 15 Dec 88 p 4

[Unattributed report: "At the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers: Toward a Unity of Views"]

[Text] V.G. Bresis, chairman of the republic's council of ministers, received D.E. Ivans, Ya.Ya. Shkapars, and V.V. Shteyn, members of the Latvian People's Front Duma Board, at their request.

They discussed some questions of leveling out disproportions in the development of the Latvian SSR national economy. In particular, the sides set out the positions of the republic's government and the Latvian Popular Front Duma on limiting natural population growth. They also discussed situations wherein temporary workers brought into the republic could help to solve a number of local tasks.

The chairman of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers informed the representatives of the Latvian Popular Front on aspects of transferring leadership of the republic's economic and social spheres to self-management and self-financing. Here he emphasized that only the economic levers that are in the hands of the local soviets can force economic leaders to stop bringing in workers from other regions.

During the conversation Ya.Ya. Shkapars voiced the fear, in particular, that even in the conditions of functioning economic accountability, the social sphere could continue to be developed on the basis of the residual principle. Is there any guarantee that this will not happen?

"The guarantee," V.G. Bresis replied, "is that the income of the republic as a whole will be distributed among the sectors of the national economy, with the public's participation. Several options for distributing the republic's income will be discussed."

They then examined some topical issues concerning rural development. Both sides noted that the leaders of some economic units and their specialists have yet to take an active restructuring stance. Even worse, in approximately one-fifth of all economic units a whole detachment of rural officials is not contributing to the introduction of new forms of economic management, or is even impeding it. Their passivity and unprofessional behavior are also apparent in the fact that they are refusing to accept extra mixed feed allocated to the republic from centralized funds. In order to spare themselves the trouble of increasing the output of livestock products, some prefer to reduce the number of cattle. It is hard to describe this attitude as anything other than sabotage of restructuring.

Ya.Ya. Shkapars expressed the opinion that bureaucracy in rural areas should be eradicated by transferring specialists from their cozy offices to tractors and other equipment and making them do some work.

Both sides were unanimous in the opinion that, in connection with developing the lease contract, forming peasant farms, and defining their status, enterprising young people should be trained as modern Soviet farmers with a mastery of the basics of several agricultural professions and practical expertise. Even the slight experience that has been accumulated so far shows that the psychological barrier is already being successfully overcome and soon city dwellers will come to regard peasant work as prestigious.

Apart from socioeconomic aims, this has great significance for preserving the unique features of national rural life and rural structure. An organic unity between national rural color and the current transformations of the political and economic system will ensure a successful solution to such a fundamental sociopolitical problem as the food problem.

Swedish Envoy to Moscow Meets Latvian Leaders
PM2212153888 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET
in Swedish 17 Dec 88 p 12

[Bobo Scheutz dispatch: "Latvia Wants Closer Links With Sweden"]

[Text] Riga—On his round trip to the Baltic republics, Swedish Ambassador in Moscow Anders Thunborg also encountered in the Latvian capital, Riga, the question of whether Baltic consulates should not be set up in Stockholm.

The wish had earlier been expressed by the Popular Front in Estonia, but there, as later in Latvia, the answer was the same: Consular agreements with the Soviet Union must decide the question. Negotiations on Swedish consulates in Estonia and Latvia and Baltic consulates in Stockholm should take place in Moscow.

The Latvian People's Front clearly formulated the wish for a consulate, whereas the question was "merely touched on" in the talks with the Latvian party and Government. The talks were more concrete when it came to cultural and trading exchanges and air and sea communications between the two countries. In the official talks Latvian representatives expressed a concrete wish for trade, but since individual Swedish companies were mentioned Anders Thunborg was unwilling to give a detailed account of the talks.

The environmental problems in the Baltic, particularly serious in Latvia, were also raised during the talks and Anders Thunborg said that the major problem here is money. The Soviet Union will have to invest major resources to rectify the mistakes, not only because of direct costs, but also because it will be forced to close down some industries.

On Friday [16 December] Anders Thunborg met with both Latvian Communist Party head Yanis Vagris and Latvian Prime Minister Vilnis Bresis, as well as representatives of the Latvian Popular Front and green movement. Anders Thunborg described the official talks as "open and substantial," which in traditional Soviet terminology means that there was no agreement about anything. But that was not the case, he said.

"Even the language of communiques is developing under glasnost," he declared.

During his meeting with Popular Front's representatives, Anders Thunborg was given a whole list of requests that he will pass on back home in Sweden. As well as consulates, the Popular Front wants its own permanent representative in Sweden; a Stockholm correspondent for its newspaper, ATMODA; and a Swedish cultural center in Riga.

They also want to send 100 Latvian farmers to train on Swedish family-run farms and to have 100 Swedish agriculturalists visit Latvia to show how agriculture can be carried out outside the kolkhozes. Heads of Latvian enterprises should be allowed to go to Sweden, they said, and they also requested visits by Swedish town planners and landscape architects.

"Outside the Soviet Union we only have Sweden as a neighbor," one Popular Front leader told SVENSKA DAGBLADET before the meeting with Anders Thunborg.

"The Estonians have both Finland and Sweden, but for us there is only Sweden, with which we also have a common history. Hitherto we think Sweden has not done enough for us," he said.

Lithuanian Academy Urges Constitution Changes
LD2312133088 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian
7 Oct 88 p 2

[Article by Eduaras Vilkas, senior science secretary, Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Presidium: "Government to Soviets, Soviets to People," under the rubric "What the Lithuanian Constitution Should Be"]

[Text] The Lithuanian SSR Academy of Sciences Presidium has presented to the Presidium of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet its reasons for the need to change the Lithuanian Constitution and several concrete proposals for a project for these changes. The people of the republic are showing an active interest in this subject and are discussing it. For this reason, we consider it our duty to publicly present the opinion of the academicians.

As early as last May, the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences had appointed a 17-member commission to prepare such proposals. I was appointed to chair it. For objective reasons, not all commission members were able to participate equally actively in this work, thus, I will mention those whose contribution was really informal. Among that number are: K. Antanavichyus, Ph.D in Economics; J. Bulavas, corresponding member; A. Burachas, Academician; A. Eidintas, candidate in History Science; B. Kuzmickas, Ph.D in Philosophy Science; V. Paulyukevichyus, corresponding member; R. Rajeckas, Academician; A. Vanagas, Ph.D in Philology Science. Many of the other scientists of the academy should also be included as co-authors, since the commission utilized some proposals which had been obtained from institutes, formulated during the time that the CC CPSU theses were being evaluated for the 19th party conference. It must be stated that the common principles and premises upon which our proposals are based have been approved at the 19th party conference.

Two important reasons prompt the improvement of the Constitution. First, restructuring, in practice, has raised and, in part, has already consolidated new principles for economic, social and political life, which contradict the existing Constitution. Among these are: State Enterprise Law (consolidation), regulations governing cooperation and individual labor, and state decisions concerning direct ties with foreign firms, etc. Laws should not oppose the Constitution in a just state. Second, many rights and freedoms important to the public, which were contained in the Constitution, were only on paper in a Stalinist type of state. The careless centralization of government and its direct result—patronage bureaucracy—denied the sovereignty of the people, and diminished the citizens' rights and freedoms. Having been

taught a lesson by these oppressive times, we must formulate more constructively appropriate constitutional assertions and anticipate sufficient guarantees for every citizen's sovereignty.

The USSR is a union of sovereign states (union republics). For this reason, the USSR must have such authority within the territory of the Lithuanian SSR as is granted her by the laws of Lithuanian SSR, and not the direct opposite. The strongest manifestation of this would be the inclusion of an article in the constitution, stating that only Lithuanian SSR laws are valid within Lithuanian SSR territory; hence, USSR laws and international laws would come into force only after their ratification. It may be possible to do without this, provided the USSR Constitution includes an article which states that in adopting union laws, a republic shall maintain its right to veto—or at least, for example, any three given republics, which have made agreements with each other, would have the right to veto.

Keeping in mind the political integration of republics through the CPSU, and the economic integration attained through the USSR common market and regulated by the state central organs, there remain only defense and foreign policy questions to relegate under union organ administrative authority. Republic participation in various union scientific, technological, nature preservation, or social programs, must be voluntary. That is to say, one needs to establish within republic jurisdiction all the branches of the national economy, their institutions, and their enterprises (except military)—and also all cultural, educational, scientific, press, radio, television and other institutions, which are located within the republic's territory. Internal and foreign trade, internal affairs, public order, justice, courts, procuracy and nature preservation also need to be assigned to republic jurisdiction. Rail and air transportation, communications, monetary system, leadership of military forces, defense and foreign affairs should remain under union republic jurisdiction.

The fact that a republic lets its sovereign rights of defense and foreign policy be turned over to the union does not imply its total abandonment of these questions. Our constitution should affirm the Lithuanian SSR's support for the principle of peaceful coexistence, in renouncing war and resolving possible conflicts by peaceful means, in accordance with UN regulations; Lithuanian SSR citizens would fulfill their military obligations with military units located within the republic boundaries; and the armed forces may be deployed outside SSSR borders only with Supreme Soviet approval and without violation of UN agreements. Many are sincerely astounded upon learning article 76 of the present Lithuanian SSR constitution states: "Lithuanian SSR has the right to establish relations with foreign countries, sign agreements with them, exchange diplomatic and consular representatives, and participate in international organization activities." This article should be approached in a practical manner. As far as foreign ties are concerned,

the republic does not ask anyone's permission to do this or that; instead, it conscientiously carries out the foreign policy, does not make any agreements with other countries, and does not perform any actions contrary to the union's interests.

One of the most obvious indications of a state's self-dependence is citizenship. Until now, there has not been a law concerning Lithuanian citizenship; in the Constitution, however, can be found one sentence, which states that all Lithuanian SSR citizens are USSR citizens and that all USSR citizens in Lithuania have equal rights with the Lithuanian SSR citizens. In other words, Lithuanian citizenship does not exist.

Keeping in mind the emigration problem and the future economic independence of the republic, it is imperative to outline clearly the laws regarding the granting and deprivation of Lithuanian citizenship. Apparently, the law should contain a qualification as to command of Lithuanian language and settlers' right. Looking back at past and present realities, the constitution should contain a clause stating that the leading cadres (government, deputies, etc.) should only be elected and appointed from among those who are citizens. At the same time, immigration questions should be regulated by special laws, in a manner which would take into account the republic's needs and material resources to ensure social and cultural adaptation in Lithuania; it is apparent that such matters cannot be regulated by financial payments alone. The sovereignty of a state does not have any meaning, without the assurance of sovereignty for its people. "The government totally belongs to the people"—which to the present time has been only an empty phrase. The 19th party conference has come out categorically for making major improvements in this situation without delay. The entire government must be turned over to the soviets and the soviets themselves must be, in turn, entrusted to the people. The election system must ensure the free manifestation of the people's will. In our estimation, a referendum should constitute the highest popular form of government. All of the most important state questions should be determined by referendum. The referendum must be announced by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, not only because it thinks it should be done so, but also because it coincides with the demands of a certain number of deputies and a proportionate number of citizens.

Democracy is not, as many think, "minority rule over the majority." Democracy, rather, is an instrument used by the minority to defend its interests, in the discussion on economic and political interests, as in decisions concerning national questions. Although we support the suggestion by the writers to include in the constitution a law stating that Lithuanian become a state language, and also that the entire republican system of education, learning and culture must nurture Lithuanian national consciousness, it would not be wise, however, to fail to guarantee constitutionally the rights of foreigners. We, therefore, propose to inscribe in the Constitution the

provision that Lithuanian citizens of other nationalities will enjoy equal rights with Lithuanians and fulfill the same obligations. National minorities are enjoying cultural and education autonomy. This, by the way, has always been the case in Lithuania.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, economic structure needs to be outlined in a modern way. Our proposals regarding this question are in agreement almost word for word with the general assertions of the specific resolution of the 19th party conference. The concept of an independent republic economy is the only question which needs to be more definitive. This is a separate subject, however.

Although the Academy of Sciences Presidium did not assign the commission to draft a project for the new Constitution, the commission did prepare it in almost its entirety, and I think it will be useful in the preparation of the official project by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

***New Lithuanian Second Secretary Appointed**
WA18000285 Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA
in Russian 10 Dec 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "LiSSR Communist Party Central Committee Plenum Information Report]

[Text] On 9 December the 15th plenum of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee took place in Vilnius at which organizational questions were discussed.

The plenum relieved Comrade N. Mitkin from his duties as second secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee in connection with his retirement.

The plenum elected Comrade V. Berezov second secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee.

B. Zaykauskas was elected secretary and member of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau.

The plenum elected People's Poet of the Lithuanian SSR A. Maldonis, candidate member of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau.

The plenum confirmed the following as department chiefs of the new structure Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee apparatus:

Ideology—Comrade Yu. Pletsakis

Social-Economic—Comrade V. Yankauskas

Agriculture—Comrade Yu. Zhebrauskas

State-Legal—Comrade V. Gerzhonas

Chief of the Administration for Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Matters—B. Alyukonis

The plenum confirmed Comrade S. Apanavichyus as chairman of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Party Control Commission

Comrade A. Laurinchykas was relieved of the duties of editor of the newspaper TIESA in connection with his transfer to creative work.

The plenum confirmed M. Barisas as editor of the newspaper TIESA. Z. Baltsevich was confirmed editor of the newspaper CZERWONY SZTANDAR.

A. Brazauskas, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee spoke at the plenum.

VLADIMIR BEREZOV—Second Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee

Vladimir Berezov, born in 1929, Russian, member of the CPSU since 1952. He graduated from the Vilnius Higher Party School and the Vilnius State Pedagogical Institute.

He worked in administrative, Komsomol work. From 1959-1967 he was secretary of the Shirvintskiy Lithuanian Communist Party Raykom, secretary of the Ignalina Lithuanian Communist Party Raykom.

From 1967-1984 V. Berezov worked as an instructor, sector chief of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, chief of the Political Education House, first deputy chief of the organizational-party work department, and as chairman of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Party Commission. Since 1985 he has been chief of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Organizational-Party Work Department.

V. Berezov was elected member of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee and candidate member of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Buro. At the beginning of this year he was elected member of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Buro.

V. Berezov is a deputy of the 11th Convocation of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of its Credentials Commission. He has received the meritorious title of Honored Cultural Worker of the Lithuanian SSR.

BRONISLAVAS ZAYKAUSKAS—Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee

Born in 1934, Lithuanian, a member of the CPSU since 1963. He graduated from Vilnius State University imeni V. Kapsukas.

He worked as an economist and senior scientific worker of the Lithuanian Branch of the All-Union Scientific-Research Institute of the Butter and Cheese Producing Industry. From 1960 he was a worker of the Lithuanian SSR Gosplan; from 1979, first deputy chairman of the Gosplan. In 1984 B. Zaykauskas was designated deputy chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic's Gosplan.

He is a member of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee and deputy of the 10th and 11th Convocations of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. B. Zaykauskas is a candidate of economic sciences. He has received the meritorious title of Honored Economist of the Republic and is a Lithuanian SSR State Prize laureate. He is married; his wife Tatyana is an economist, and they have a son.

Shcherbitskiy Attends Military Party Conference
AU2812113288 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY
in Russian 21 Dec 88 p 2

[RATAU report: "Among Military Communists"]

[Excerpts] The political directives of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference concerning restructuring in the country's Armed Forces, as well as the requirements stemming from these directives to maintain a high level of vigilance and combat efficiency among the troops were the central items on the agenda of the party conference held on 20 December in the Kiev Military District, decorated with the order of the Red Banner. [passage omitted]

Lieutenant General V.A. Sharygin, chief of the district's Political Directorate, said in his report—and the delegates said in their speeches—that, in the period under review, the political organs and party organizations had continued to intensify their efforts to restructure the style and methods of their activity, and to find the most effective ways and means to increase party influence on improving the qualitative indexes of combat efficiency, on training the troops, and on reinforcing military discipline. [passage omitted]

The Communists noted changes for the better in the leadership of the political organs, party committees, and bureaus. [passage omitted]

It was pointed out at the conference that, at the same time, the process of restructuring among the troops is still progressing with difficulty and in a contradictory way. A radical change has not been achieved, primarily in the work style of the Political Directorate. It has failed to take full advantage of the opportunity to intensify political and organizational work; sometimes it proves to be unable to see what matters most and to thoroughly study the most effective ways to accomplish the outstanding tasks; it is not sufficiently consistent and persistent in working out and applying new attitudes to politically influence the qualitative preparation of the

troops, the people's education, and the reinforcing of military discipline. Some political organs are too slow in getting rid of bureaucracy and formalism, and in a number of cases they have proved to be unable to lead the basic party organizations under conditions of growing democratization and glasnost.

Slow progress is being made in attaining the main objective of restructuring—to ensure that the Communists are exemplary in combat training and service. [passage omitted]

There are substantial shortcomings in the organization of ideological and mass political work. Thus, the fact that the class adversary has stepped up hostile anti-Soviet propaganda—aimed at fomenting hostility among the peoples of the USSR, particularly among young people—is not always taken into account. Insufficient steps are being taken to democratize military life; to defend the social rights of servicemen; and to increase the role of Komsomol, trade union, and other public organizations in the life of military collectives.

The requirements of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR minister of defense to attain a radical turning point in the state of military discipline are not being fully complied with. [passage omitted]

The conference was addressed by V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary.

In the decision it adopted, the conference called on the Communists to do their utmost to make practical advances in all directions in the restructuring taking place in the USSR Armed Forces, and to successfully accomplish the tasks set by the party Central Committee, the minister of defense, and the chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy for the 1989 training year.

Participating in the conference proceedings were: V.S. Shevchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman; V.A. Ivashko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and second secretary; Army General I.A. Gerasimov, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member; A.Ya. Vinnik, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Donetsk Obkom first secretary; K.I. Masik, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo candidate member and Kiev Gorkom first secretary; I.A. Larin, first deputy chief of the Public Law Department in the CPSU Central Committee; A.S. Chumak, chief of the Public Law Department in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee; V.I. Tsybukh, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee first secretary; representatives of the Main

Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy; leaders of the republic's ministries and departments; a number of obkom first secretaries; and representatives of veteran organizations.

Party conferences are also being held in other military districts located on the territory of the Ukraine.

New Composition of Obkoms Elected in Ukraine
AU2312132188 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian
18 Dec 88 p 3

[RATAU report: "At Oblast Party Conferences"]

[Text] The results of the work done in the period under review and the tasks to implement the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference were examined at the accountability and election conferences held on 16-17 December in Donetsk, Zaporozhye, Kiev, Crimean, Sumy, Kharkov, Cherkassy, and Chernigov party organizations.

The conferences were attended and addressed by: B.V. Kachura, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, in Donetsk; Yu.N. Yelchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, in Zaporozhye; I.G. Grintsov, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, in Cherkassy; Ye.V. Kachalovskiy, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers first deputy chairman, in Kharkov; V.A. Sologub, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Trade Unions Council chairman, in Simferopol; I.A. Gerasimov, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member, in Chernigov; Yu.A. Kolomiyets, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo candidate member, Council of Ministers first deputy chairman, and chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, in Kiev; and K.I. Masik, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo candidate member and Kiev Gorkom first secretary, also in Kiev.

The conference in Sumy was addressed by A.P. Savchenko, Socioeconomic Department chief in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee.

The conference proceedings were attended by: V.D. Gladush, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, and V.V. Semenov, sector chief in a CPSU Central Committee department, in Zaporozhye; B.I. Beketov, sector chief in the Party Construction and Cadre Work Department of the CPSU Central Committee, in Donetsk; A.I. Korniyenko, chief of the Organizational Party and Cadre Work Department in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, in Kiev; and P.K. Musiyenko, General Department chief in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, in Chernigov.

Participating in the conference proceeding were also other responsible officials of the CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committees, as well as leaders of a number of ministries and departments.

A new composition of obkoms and auditing commissions of oblast party organizations was elected.

Obkom plenums were held to examine organizational issues.

In Donetsk, A.Ya. Vinnik was elected obkom first secretary; Yu.K. Smirnov, second secretary; and L.F. Bezlepkins, G.P. Yerkhov, and Yu.S. Usatenko, secretaries.

In Zaporozhye, G.P. Kharchenko was elected obkom first secretary; A.A. Prichkin, second secretary; and V.V. Adzerikho, A.K. Vorobyev, and V.T. Tseluyko, secretaries.

In Kiev, G.I. Revenko was elected obkom first secretary; A.I. Kokot, second secretary; and A.N. Amelkin, N.T. Donchenko, and Yu.P. Kaplin, secretaries.

In Simferopol, A.N. Girenko was elected Crimean Obkom first secretary; P.A. Fedulichev, second secretary; and L.I. Grach, G.I. Kapshuk, and V.I. Pigarev, secretaries.

In Sumy, V.A. Shevchenko was elected obkom first secretary; V.V. Grabin, second secretary; and M.A. Zhidkova, A.K. Petrusenko, and L.A. Yakovenko, secretaries.

In Kharkov, V.P. Mysnichenko was elected obkom first secretary; V.A. Khaustov, second secretary; and V.P. Duravkin, I.F. Kalantay, and N.N. Skidan, secretaries.

In Cherkassy, A.A. Ruzhitskiy was elected obkom first secretary; N.P. Beloblotskiy, second secretary; and G.P. Kuzmichev, A.Yu. Chaban, and K.F. Yastreb, secretaries.

In Chernigov, L.I. Palazhchenko was elected obkom first secretary; P.A. Mysnik, second secretary; and V.T. Lisovenko, V.M. Polovets, and V.A. Kharchenko, secretaries.

The conference delegates with a minute of silence paid tribute to the memory of the victims of the natural disaster in the Armenian SSR.

Abuses in Ukraine Consumer Services Noted
AU2312131188 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY
in Russian 16 Dec 88 p 3

[RATAU report: "In the Ukrainian SSR Procurator's Office"]

[Text] An interdepartmental conference held recently in the Ukrainian SSR Procurator's Office discussed the observance of legislation aimed at protecting socialist property, fighting mismanagement, abuses, and unearned incomes in the system of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Consumer Services.

Notwithstanding the measures taken, abuses were noted at a number of consumer service enterprises in Voroshilovgrad, Dnepropetrovsk, Odessa, Ternopol, Kherson, Crimean, Poltava, and some other oblasts. In the 9 months of the current year, the value of commodities and materials stolen or embezzled totaled R1.6 million, the proceeds misappropriated in about 4,500 cases totaled R57,000, and the excess paid in exorbitant prices charged in more than 5,000 cases exceeded R100,000.

The investigation carried out by the organs of procuratorship and of the Ukrainian SSR Ministries of Internal Affairs and of Finance showed that theft and other offenses were facilitated by the unsatisfactory selection of cadres for leading positions and posts involving responsibility for goods or services; lack of control over their work; negligence in stock taking and accountability; and insufficient liability of accountants, controllers, auditors, and persons in charge of goods or services for every encroachment on the people's wealth. Those who encourage theft, the padding of accounts, and the overcharging of the customers are frequently leaders of structural subunits themselves.

The Ivano-Frankovsk, the Crimean, the Odessa, the Rovno, and some other oblast consumer service administrations have failed to properly organize investigations and audits, and to see to it that the culprits fully compensate for the damages. The compensation paid in the branch only amounted to 36 percent of the damage. In the 9 months of the current year, the value of commodities and materials qualified and written off as defective or perished exceeded the norm set for natural losses by R150,000. In a number of oblasts, departmental control organs do not comply with the legal provision obligating them to report to investigation agencies large detected cases of shortages, theft, book padding, and other abuses for profit. Thus, accounts concerning plan fulfillment at the "Odesfoto" factory were found padded and distorted by a sum exceeding R35,000. It was found that bonuses unlawfully paid on this basis amounted to nearly R9,000. But materials about these abuses were passed to investigation agencies only at the request of the procurator's office.

In the activity of the law enforcement and control organs, it was noted at the conference, there are serious shortcomings in preventing and checking offenses at consumer service enterprises. The republic's Ministry of Finance is still not strict enough in exerting control over financial activity in the system of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Consumer Services. Internal affairs organs do not always see to it that measures are taken to promptly check theft, abuses, and unearned incomes, and indulge in red tape while investigating some criminal cases of this type. Some oblast, city, and rayon procurators do not adequately coordinate the activity of law enforcing organs in this sector, or ensure everywhere that legislation involving the safety of socialist property and the struggle against unearned incomes in the branch is observed, and that criminal cases of the aforesaid type are investigated, and occasionally they are liberal in dealing with the culprits.

Measures were drawn up to tighten supervision and control over the compliance with legislation aimed at protecting socialist property, and at fighting mismanagement, abuses, and unearned incomes.

Struggle Against Alcoholism, Drunkenness Examined
AU2212142088 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian
15 Dec 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Excerpts] At its routine session, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee examined the progress made in the republic in implementing the decisions adopted by the CPSU Central Committee to intensify the struggle against drunkenness and alcoholism. It was noted that the work in this direction by party and administrative organs, as well as by public organizations, had been purposeful. The measures taken have helped improve the atmosphere in labor collectives and families, and helped foster discipline and public order. Compared with the corresponding period of 1987, in the 10 months of the current year the number of persons prosecuted in the republic for drinking alcoholic beverages or for appearing drunk in public places, as well as the number of those delivered to sobering establishments, declined. The number of offenses committed owing to drunkenness has gone down.

However, there has not been a radical improvement in the situation. The number of violations of anti-alcoholic legislation, and of offenses committed by drunk persons, is still significant. Widespread drunkenness among young people is very disturbing. In recent times, the effects of hasty, unconsidered or exaggerated measures taken in the field have made themselves felt. Moonshine distilling has spread, and as a result of this sugar and confectionery have become scarce. The use of various liquids containing alcohol and of home-made beverages has increased. [passage omitted]

The Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers; the State Agro-Industrial Committee; the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Health, Trade, Justice, and Culture; the Ukrainian Union of Consumer Societies; and local soviet executive committees, have been instructed to strictly verify the measures taken to implement party and government decisions on these issues. [passage omitted]

Other issues concerning party and state life have also been examined.

Vorotnikov Addresses Chuvash Meeting
PM2712112188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
25 Dec 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report under the rubric "At Party Conferences": "More Actively To Resolve the Tasks of Restructuring"]

[Text] Cheboksary, 24 Dec—The past 3 years in the life of Chuvashia have marked turning points in its economic and social development. Despite the difficulties of restructuring, the moral atmosphere in the republic is improving, people's initiative is being set free, and glasnost and democracy are gaining in strength. This was emphasized at the oblast party conference which opened here yesterday.

V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, participated in it.

The delegates pointed out that positive changes are taking place in the economy under the impact of the ideas of restructuring: The republic's production and technical potential has strengthened, and its contribution to the country's national economic complex has increased. Industry is developing steadily, and the production and labor productivity growth rates set for the 5-year plan are being maintained. The average annual gross production of agricultural produce has increased. The plans for commissioning fixed capital have been fulfilled. Yet restructuring in the republic is still proceeding in a difficult and contradictory manner. Many old approaches to work and stereotypes have still not been eradicated. The new economic mechanism and economic levers of management have not started working in full. Administrative-edict methods of leadership, wage leveling, a low level of discipline, and discrepancy between words and deeds are still make themselves felt.

The report by CPSU Obkom First Secretary A.P. Petrov and the speeches by N.V. Sapozhnikov, toolmaker at Cheboksary Instrument-Making Plant; A.P. Aydak, chairman of Yadrinskiy Rayon's "Leninskaya Iskra" Kolkhoz; Ye.A. Magulina, department chief at Shumerlya Interrayon Hospital, and others frankly stated that there are still many shortcomings and omissions in the work of the CPSU Obkom and that the secretaries and bureau members of the party obkom are still only slowly improving the style, forms, and methods of their activity. They wished that the new composition of the

party obkom would focus attention on practical tasks, more actively resolve acute social problems, improve internal party democracy, work actively and purposefully, and persistently implement party decisions.

V.I. Vorotnikov addressed the conference participants. He said, in particular: I would like to note the business-like and principled approach to various aspects of the party organization's activity heard both in the report and in the majority of the speeches. The major, crucial tasks facing the Chuvash Republic can undoubtedly be resolved only from specific critical and self-critical positions, only on the basis of a sober and realistic analysis of achievements and shortcomings. Today general phrases, smooth formulas, and reprimands addressed to no one in particular will not do. Actions alone can mobilize the party organization's creative forces, win the working people's full and reliable trust, and lead them.

Figuratively speaking, we have now mounted an offensive over the entire front of social life—in the sphere of the economy, in the sphere of sociopolitical relations, and in the sphere of ideology. We cannot permit ourselves a breathing space, a delay, or a slowing down in a single one of these sectors. Too many problems have built up, and we must tackle them all at the same time. There is no alternative to this.

Yet in the unusually complex and tightly tied knot of problems from which our restructuring may be said to have been woven the party has chosen the central, key link today. This is the further democratization of state life and the reform of the political system. The chief purport of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee November Plenum and the extraordinary USSR Supreme Soviet session is that they contain specific measures to improve our state structure and lay down the first principle of the political process for the immediate future and long term. Precisely this is the key to the upsurge of the masses' creative energy and to their very broad involvement in the affairs of society.

The party, the speaker pointed out, is undergoing a truly stern test of restructuring. Our ideas, our cadres, and our ability to work among the masses are being tested. It has to be admitted that, despite all the difficulties, we are standing up to this test. The course outlined by the party is yielding the first tangible results. Here are a few general facts: This year's indicators are higher than the plan indicators in industry of RSFSR jurisdiction. The fulfillment of contract pledges with regard to deliveries of output has improved compared with last year. A certain strengthening of the role of intensive economic factors has become apparent. A step forward has been taken in the development of enterprises in the social sphere. Production of basic agricultural products is growing. Great preparations have been made for the transfer of the entire economy to work under conditions of the new economic mechanism as of 1 January next year.

All this is so. It is impossible not to see the advances in the economic, social, and spiritual spheres. But Soviet people's objective requirements—and they are quite modest requirements—are still far from being satisfied in the way we would like. How much tardiness and irresponsibility, how many mistakes and losses, and how much still unutilized potential there is in this both in the RSFSR as a whole and in the Chuvash ASSR. Much has been said about this both at the conference today and during the past few days' meetings with the republic's working people and with leaders of party and soviet organs, enterprises, and farms.

Of course, we would resolve many problems more quickly and better if grave attendant circumstances were not added to all the objective difficulties which inevitably go with the fundamental restructuring of the economic mechanism and the major changes in other spheres. There has been a catastrophic drought and flooding in a number of parts of the country and major transport accidents. All this lies like an additional burden on our economy.

Now the earthquake in Armenia has been added to this sad list. Huge numbers of casualties and a colossal material loss to the country.

But we see that the terrible misfortune has not weakened our union but, on the contrary, has united Soviet people still more. United—we have used this word frequently in the past too. But today it is not a political stock phrase—this is what has really happened. Common grief has revealed how profound and immense is our people's moral strength. The entire country is helping Armenia. It would be possible to cite thousands of examples attesting to the selflessness, unselfishness, and heartfelt sympathy shown during these hard days. We have been able once again to see for ourselves that socialism has forged a strong sense of the people's fraternal solidarity and that the greatest humanism is inherent in our society.

Restructuring, V.I. Vorotnikov went on to say, is undergoing another serious test—a test in the arena of international politics, before the eyes of the world community. We have every right to say that this open, dynamic, profoundly creative process is having a very broad impact on the modern world.

M.S. Gorbachev's recent visit to the United States and the new program of peace-loving actions which he proclaimed from the UN rostrum marked a turning point in the development of contemporary international relations. In saying this I am far from exaggerating in any way. Our initiatives have never before met with such an amicable positive response. This is not accidental, it is natural. The major multifaceted proposals advanced by the Soviet Union accord with the interests of and are acceptable to all countries—socialist, capitalist, and developing. They have fallen on prepared ground—on the increased awareness on the part of the peoples and politicians of the unity and close interdependence of the

modern world. And our restructuring, our glasnost and democratization, and the new frames of mind in our society, which everyone can see, prove that this is not some political maneuver nor a diplomatic scheme. All this strengthens trust in us and elicits a strong, positive response.

The speaker emphasized that the nationwide discussion of the draft USSR laws on amendments to the USSR Constitution and on the election procedure considerably enriched our political life. Many interesting and useful thoughts and sensible views were expressed concerning particular questions of restructuring and tasks for the future.

At the same time negative aspects also came to light. Not everything in the discussion was constructive and, what is more, there were people and groups of people who had the intention of using the discussion for propaganda of false positions, for attacks on socialism, and to excite unhealthy passions.

Why was this possible? Above all, because certain party organizations did not take a proper, responsible approach toward propaganda and organizational work at the first stage of the political reform. Those times are gone when it was possible to throw out a hard-hitting slogan from the rostrum and a forest of hands went up and applause thundered out. Now it is necessary to work actively and to try to convince people. In some places people reckoned that everything would come about of its own accord, automatically, with no effort—but they miscalculated.

The Central Committee emphasizes that the main point for us now is to concentrate on specific and vitally important questions of the current stage of restructuring. Just recall how—no matter how acutely the topic of interethnic relations was raised in debates—the overwhelming majority of speeches nevertheless logically and primarily concentrated on key problems of restructuring and the tasks of economic and social development. It is the duty of party organizations to skillfully and persistently guide the population's growing political activeness along the tracks of practical deeds. Not to hold forth or blather about restructuring at great length, not to drown it in beautiful words, but more actual work—specific, real, tangible, daily work. This is the main point.

First, this means implementing the food program and primarily improving production relations in the countryside, properly organizing the livestock's wintering, and preparing for field work in the spring. Second, it means supplying the population with the necessary goods and services. Third, it means housing construction, improved municipal services, and the solution of other social problems. In order to do this faster and more efficiently it is necessary to ensure stable work by industry, transportation, the construction industry, and the material and technical supply system.

People here were justified in talking today about the existence of major unresolved problems in various sectors of Chuvashia's economy. The mighty production potential which has been created is not being utilized with due efficiency everywhere. Targets for the development of science and technology are not being met. Almost one-half of the workers are engaged in physical labor. The problem of the quality of manufactured output remains acute. There are many irregularities in capital construction.

Dissatisfaction was also expressed as regards work to develop the agro-industrial complex. Economic methods of management are being introduced only slowly, and insufficient use is made of the opportunities offered by the laws on the cooperative system and on the state enterprise.

Look at the social sphere, for example. The urgency of the housing problem remains unabated. There are many complaints about supplies of consumer goods. The republic's per capita level of meat, milk, and vegetable consumption is still low.

Many of the reasons behind breakdowns in the national economy lie on the surface, as it were. The crux of the matter lies in the real restructuring of the economic mechanism, enhancement of the labor activeness of the masses, and more attention to social problems. This cannot be achieved without improving mass organizational work, without changing the style and forms of political leadership by the oblast party organization.

Second, we are approaching a new rung in the first stage of state reform—the elections to soviets of people's deputies. It is clear that emphasis in the work must be placed on how to prepare for and conduct these complex elections. The results will depend on how party organizations and soviets at all levels will act and how seriously they will approach the election campaign. The soviets must be made up of truly well-trained, experienced, and mature deputies, genuine political fighters devoted to restructuring. We have a large choice; the only thing that is necessary is to adopt a correct attitude when looking for these people. Chuvashia has a good and apt proverb: "The strongest of the strong and the cleverest of the clever are to be found in the midst of the people." Indeed, the strong and the clever are the ones we need today.

In other words, complex and intense work lies in store for party organizations. Now it is impossible to manage by just compiling lists of voters, unfurling slogans, and setting up agitation stations. This was proved during the report-and-election campaign within the party. Wherever people had prepared for it badly, the results were also bad. Political, propaganda, and agitation work cannot be left to just drift along, nor can it be conducted using the methods of cavalry charges and a one-shot burst of activity. It must be well-organized and skillfully conducted. People must be told only the truth, it is

necessary to be able to uphold the truth, it is necessary to learn to persuade, to shape a lofty sense of involvement in all matters concerning the country, and to inspire creative and responsible labor.

It would be an unforgivable delusion to overlook the fact that there are forces—both on the right and “on the left”—which are against restructuring. This is by no means just a matter of inveterate bureaucrats. The effect of resistance to restructuring can be felt at all levels: At the leadership level as well as at the middle-management level, where some people have lost the habit of proper work and where the sense of responsibility is atrophied. Such people are to be found everywhere, in all sectors, but the primary need today is to impose order as regards specialist cadres in the agro-industrial complex. Honestly speaking, people who have not realized the essence of restructuring are also to be found among the workers and peasants. Yes, workers are the vanguard of restructuring; the bulk of them are solidly behind us. Most of them are seekers, people who are worried about the cause, who are striving to raise production to a higher level and to improve the quality and organization of labor. But there are still quite a few indifferent and inert people who work in a slipshod manner.

But even if they do not need restructuring, restructuring needs them. And this is the task of Communists—to involve these people in the general rhythm of creative labor and to persistently work with cadres of all categories and at all levels. And of course, to sharply expose demagogues and chatters who, without having raised a finger, are hurrying to lay claims to restructuring.

We are embarking, V.I. Vorotnikov went on to say, on an improvement of the republic-level and local links of the soviets. Elaboration of suggestions for the legal basis of their work is beginning. Ahead lies serious study of all questions concerning the consolidation of the status of union and autonomous republics. It is important to sum up the opinion of specialists, soviet officials, broad strata of voters, and all working people. Only local party organizations are capable of performing this work. It will obviously be necessary to set up appropriate research groups, to clearly define their tasks, and to set acceptable time schedules.

The question of local self-management is especially topical. Work is now being done to elaborate a relevant law which will make it possible to define the functions and powers of soviets at all levels which are called upon to serve as the axis of the entire system of local self-management. This is another highly complex matter. Even specialists still lack a clear idea about the meaning of local self-management and local economy. It is necessary to vest local soviets with rights and powers which would enable them to exercise full power on their territories, to ensure their proper socioeconomic and cultural development, and to take full responsibility for this.

Of course, the soviets will be unable to perform their functions without a solid material and technical base. The full power of soviets must be interlinked with the basic principles of our economic system's operations, with economic accountability, self-financing, the law on the state enterprise, and others. Moreover, they must be appropriately interested in the work of enterprises under any level of jurisdiction.

These matters were discussed yesterday with leaders of Chuvashia's rayon and several rural soviets. Quite a few interesting opinions were expressed on how we are to solve these questions, on how we are to continue this work.

Here is one of the conclusions. Of course the soviets need new rights and a sound material base. But these rights must be skillfully exercised. Even the best laws and largest resources will produce little if they are utilized in a muddled fashion. The opposite also applies. Even today, with his limited rights, as it were, a skilled soviet leader can achieve a lot. And he does. There are many examples of this also in Chuvashia.

There is another important element. Party committees are about to—or rather have already started to—transfer a number of functions to soviets of people's deputies. Many party committees have already abandoned their economic functions and have closed down the appropriate sector departments, while local ispolkoms still lack the necessary structure. There is a shortage of knowledgeable and experienced officials; experience has not been accumulated. Of course, under such circumstances party committees must retain the initiative and skillfully introduce soviets and their organs into this new work.

On 21-24 December V.I. Vorotnikov was briefed on the progress of restructuring in Chuvashia's industry and agriculture and the work by the republic party organizations and local soviets to improve social conditions and consumer services for the working people.

A discussion at the “Cheboksarskiy Zavod Promyshlennyykh Traktorov” production association centered on measures to improve the quality of machines manufactured here and their completeness, and there was a conversation about difficulties in assimilating the manufacture of the new generation of high-power tractors. The chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium noted that the collective does have numerous untapped reserves. In order to avoid being dependent on suppliers, it is necessary to follow the example of many firms abroad and organize comprehensive production of the most diverse components. The excellent design bureau and the large production capacities equipped with state-of-the-art technology also enable the enterprise to manufacture high-earning consumer goods. The great efficiency of economic accountability is confirmed by the work of the Cheboksary branch of the “Mikrokhirurgiya

Glaza" Intersector Science and Technology Complex. Up to 120 operations are carried out here every day using new technology, and each one of them is successful.

V.I. Vorotnikov saw for himself the work of the unique surgical conveyor belt for the treatment of vision defects, whose manufacture was started up by Cheboksary's specialists, and saw their latest work—a diagnostic conveyor belt—in operation.

The collective of Cheboksary's hosiery and knitwear factory, whose output is famous far beyond the republic's borders, has also achieved high profitability in the conditions of economic accountability. The enterprise is now setting up branches in the countryside. This helps kolkhozes and sovkhozes to retain young people in the countryside, and helps the enterprise to more fully satisfy local demand for knitwear.

V.I. Vorotnikov toured one of Cheboksary's new residential microrayons. It is made up of good-quality multistory blocks. True enough, the pace of the housing construction workers is faster than that of their partners. Many homes are still standing empty. They were not handed over on a "turnkey" basis for the sole reason that construction workers were short-supplied with tiles, linoleum, and lumber.

The autonomous republic's agriculture is now in a stage of broad restructuring. The chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium visited the Chuvash agricultural experimental station and a new housing development made up of homes built using the cast-on-site method. While in Kanashskiy Rayon's "Tsivil" kolkhoz he visited the central farmstead and the machine pool, and asked stockmen at the dairy complex about the conditions for their labor and leisure.

The conversation held with the republic's soviet aktiv centered on a discussion of the role and position of soviets of people's deputies at the present stage of restructuring and their importance in boosting the country's national economy, improving social conditions and consumer services for urban and rural working people, and fulfilling the food program. It was emphasized that the party now perceives the paramount task as being to consolidate the authority and autonomy of organs of Soviet power and enhance its influence in all spheres of our society's life.

V.I. Vorotnikov laid flowers at the V.I. Lenin Monument and the Monument of Glory. He visited the Cheboksary branch of the V.I. Lenin Central Museum, which has been operating for almost 25 years now on a voluntary basis. Much work is done there by party and labor veterans. The chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium also visited the art and ethnography museums.

V.I. Vorotnikov was accompanied on his tour by A.P. Petrov, A.M. Leontyev, chairman of the Chuvash ASSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and L.P. Prokopyev, chairman of the republic Council of Ministers.

Vorotnikov, Ligachev End Provincial Visits
LD2512131488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0204 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] Comrades Vorotnikov, Ligachev, and Baklanov has ended their visits to Chuvashia, Rostov Oblast, and Sverdlovsk Oblast, respectively. As has already been reported, they spoke at the oblast party conference, visited industrial and agro-industrial enterprises, and met with people.

Ideological Progress Demands Dialectic
PM2312150188 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 88 p 3

[V. Yashchenko "Reader's Viewpoint": "Truth Does Not Fear Debates. Polemical Notes About the Future of Cultural and Information Exchange"]

[Text] Today, in the era of the "raging" scientific and technical revolution, the mechanisms created by the administrative edict system to carefully filter any kind of information coming into our country "from over there"—that is, from "foreign parts" ideologically alien to us—are working increasingly badly. In any case, even previously the numerous foreign radio voices were not very daunted by the notorious "iron curtain"—the more tightly we attempted to draw it, the louder they became. The free flow of video recordings is expanding explosively today, and in the foreseeable future it is not hard to imagine an uncontrollable flood of television information via space. Administrative controls over the printed word alone remain. With the development of society's electronic information culture infrastructure, these controls will be increasingly futile and will slow scientific and social progress. The question arises: How, in such conditions, is it possible to put into practice the "informational sovereignty of states," a formula which we still use at international forums, especially as the cultural information flow from Western countries is not only not slackening but is increasing thanks to new technical opportunities? Attempts to regulate this flow in some way have so far not proven overly successful on the whole.

Nevertheless, the thesis that "there can be no peaceful coexistence in the ideological struggle" is deeply rooted in our concept of foreign policy. This premise was also the source of our negative attitude toward ideas of "peaceful coexistence between cultures" (what is meant is the socialist and bourgeois cultures) and the "peaceful penetration of ideas and people." After all, the concept of "ideological struggle" automatically presupposes confrontation. Would not the following sound far more correct in present conditions: competition and rivalry between ideas, ideologies, morals, and works within the

framework of a single human culture? After all, in the nuclear era "struggle" (which is possibly fraught with "war") is suicidally dangerous. Was this not why, in his UN speech, M.S. Gorbachev, in saying that the de-ideologization of interstate relations is a demand of the new stage and that we are not going to retire into the shell of our own values, stressed: "...let everyone prove the advantages of their own system, way of life, and values—but not only by talk and propaganda, but by real action."

Struggle must give way to free competition between ideas, and let the most talented, cogent, and topical ones triumph in that competition. Here it is necessary to agree that neither side can demand that the other cease propagandizing its own way of life and system, while at the same time reserving the right to conduct such propaganda itself. Attempts to introduce discrimination with regard to information or culture—on anyone's part—are nothing other than an endeavor to establish your own monopoly of ultimate truth, and, judging by repeated statements by our top leadership, we have resolutely abandoned this policy.

From all this it can be concluded that propaganda in international contact is a natural phenomenon. Clearly, states should therefore struggle not against "alien" propaganda but for compliance with the "rules of the game" (that is, honesty, mutual respect, the right to reply, avoidance of hostility, and so forth).

Flows of information and culture from abroad, of course, have brought and will bring with them not only pure morals. Some weeds find and will find fertile ground in both their native and foreign countries. But there is no need to be afraid of this. The process of evolution—of both nature and society—has always involved the natural selection of progressive and the dying out of unviable forms of life, social formations, and spiritual aims. In this connection one can only agree with the words of A.N. Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who stressed in his speech at the conference of leaders of central and republican mass news media and scientific and cultural workers that in the diversity of Soviet society's spiritual life "there may be both weeds and barren flowers. But they are no reason to limit diversity itself as a form of life." "Rejection of the unacceptable," he noted in the same speech, "must take place only on the basis of glasnost and democracy, via the people, via society. There is no other way."

As the preceding decades of our history have shown, bans on freedom of information and thought in society can produce only stagnation in science, production, and culture. Willful pressure on the cerebellum will only weaken a person's ideological commitment and conviction of the rightness of ideals, teachings, and morals that may be true, but are forcibly implanted in his mind.

You increasingly come to the conclusion that the guarantee of our society's evolution lies in granting individuals and groups the opportunity to communicate freely with each other via printed, audiovisual, television, radio, and other channels, including on a planetary scale. It is not only the opportunity itself but above all the speed with which every person who so wishes can obtain, process, transfer, and disseminate information that constitutes an integral part of the nation's progress. In this connection it is becoming increasingly clear that the restrictions on the use by any individual of copiers and duplicating machinery and on the import of personal computer printers and diskettes, the cases of persecution of video owners that are still encountered—all this is a tangible brake on the progress of our social, cultural, and scientific thought.

In international and intranational contacts such groups, associations, and individuals do not necessarily have to share their state's official position. After all, the pluralism of opinions that we seek also presupposes the right of the minority and even of individuals to hold and propagandize their own position.

The basic objections that arise when the question is formulated in these terms usually boil down to the following. In conditions of free communication won't associations like the "Democratic Union" and "Pamyat" be able to propagandize their views? Yes, they will. However, it seems to me that in contemporary conditions the most fruitful method of combating erroneous and even socially harmful ideas can and must be only the force of persuasion and counterargument, and certainly not bans on speech, still less a ban on dissent.

Today it is very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to protect morality as well as ideological—and merely human—values by means of purely administrative methods. So objectively the time has come to abandon "prohibitive" protective measures. Instead of this it is necessary to increase the inward resistance of man and society to undesirable external phenomena, and this is possible only when a person or a group of people independently, of their own free will, come to realize the correctness or, conversely, the fallaciousness of particular ideological, moral, or philosophical guidelines. In other words, it is now futile to instill inward, sincere commitment to particular spiritual values by means of preaching. The free comparison of ideals and artistic and informational images is clearly the only way of forming an independent individual convinced of the advantages of his own culture.

We are in the habit of analyzing, retelling, and criticizing movies and books that are widespread in the Western countries and most developing countries but absolutely unattainable as far as the Soviet public is concerned. When you encounter this, you feel perplexed, at the very least. What's going on? Some researcher who is "in the

know" has studied these works of bourgeois "pseudo-culture" and has not been morally or ideologically corrupted? If he has been able to distinguish "cheap substitutes" from "real art" and has grasped what is good and bad, would our "uninitiated" public really not be able to do the same? What is the source of this lack of belief in ordinary people's strength of intellect and conviction? Does this not display our elitist approach, a lordly arrogance? So apparently the "initiates" can tell what's what, but the broad, that is, "simple" masses cannot? Is this kind of thing permissible in a society motivated by socialist ideals?

I am deeply convinced that a contemporary civilized person—Soviets included—must have the opportunity to acquaint himself freely with any ideas, works, or spiritual and moral guidelines current in the world. Let us at long last realize that the existence of such an opportunity is by no means equivalent to propaganda of something negative. Surely you will agree that the portrayal of violence and brutality in the movie "Come and See" and of immorality in "The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie" or "The Legend of Narayama" does not constitute propagation of these phenomena. On the contrary, it exposes them.

Analysis of our domestic and foreign cultural policy—especially the policy that predominated during the stagnation years—shows most unambiguously that V.I. Lenin's thesis that "we take from each national culture only its democratic and its socialist elements, we take them *only* and *unconditionally* as a counterweight to bourgeois culture...." is still often interpreted simplistically. The progressive is taken and the reactionary hushed up; what are regarded as socialist elements are cultivated and bourgeois elements are arbitrarily excised, at the discretion of "persons in the know." In this way, so it is alleged, good taste is fostered among the people and a "pure" socialist culture is created. Thus the dialectical approach in these questions is totally disregarded.

Even if you suppose that the excised "noxious" elements of the culture of developed capitalist countries fall into the category of "evil," from the dialectical standpoint can the concept of "good" be grasped unless you comprehend what "evil" is? How can you know what is "better" without knowing, comparing, and therefore seeing for yourself what is "worse"? How can you consciously opt for the "progressive" without being familiar with the "backward"? Can you distinguish the "progressive" without knowledge of the "reactionary"? These questions look trivial, but the continued pruning—although, of course, this goes on to a far lesser extent than in previous years—of dissent in culture and ideology attests to the lack of dialectical approach in elaborating the political line.

After all, in human culture the unity and struggle of opposites coexist and there is a negation of the negation. Via their interaction and mutual influence, the parts of

the common culture actually ensure the further evolution of the culture as a system. To attempt to willfully amputate certain aspects of an organism as complex as human culture is to fly in the face of evolution and to regard the contradictory but natural development of individual and social consciousness.

There is another conclusion that follows from these arguments. In conditions of the contemporary scientific and technical revolution states must—particularly insofar as they are objectively compelled to do this—show a respectful attitude toward all shades of public opinion, both national and foreign. Does this mean that the state's official position negates the existence of opinions other than the state's within the country? And is it sensible to attempt to conceal these unofficial opinions during international contacts or, even worse, to suppress them in the national context?

Such actions were once to some extent justified in conditions in which it was possible and expedient to preserve national isolation and narrow-mindedness, which in a certain era played a positive role in strengthening and protecting national cultural identity and sovereignty from alien external influences. But in contemporary conditions it is not merely foolish but in some respects dangerous to the nation's fate to base domestic and foreign policy on metaphysically immutable and inviable approaches.

K. Marx too warned of the danger of cultivating uniformity of opinion in society and protecting it against internal and external dissent: "A government hears only its own voice, it knows it is hearing only its own voice, yet nevertheless it deceives itself that it is hearing the voice of the people and also demands that the people maintain this self-deception. The people, for their part, either lapse partly into political superstition and partly into political skepticism, or, turning their backs totally on state life, become a crowd of people living only for their private lives."

In the era of the scientific and technical revolution the progress of a particular nation will increasingly depend on whether it is able to turn to account the flow of diverse information and various ideas on a global scale or opts for attempts to protect itself from external influences, to retire into its shell, and to ensure a uniformity of opinions running counter—I would like to particularly emphasize this point—to the objective laws of dialectics.

When you examine international ideological rivalry from the standpoint of dialectics, you cannot help concluding that this rivalry is one manifestation of the universal law of the unity and struggle of opposites in the international sphere. Without a clash of opinions and positions at the world level there would inevitably be stagnation in the development of human civilization. At

the same time it has to be emphasized that in the nuclear era the "struggle of opposites" on a planetary scale can and must be only correct and mutually respectful.

I think that as the new political thinking is increasingly affirmed in international contacts, the rejection of criticism of oneself on the pretext that it constitutes "interference" will increasingly become obsolete. Otherwise more and more new confrontational situations will arise.

What attitude should be taken toward reactionary dissent? I think that even in this case the conceptual approach should remain the same: The evolutionary development of human civilization is born out of the unity and struggle of its opposites. Of course, reactionary attitudes, conservatism, and backwardness are not sources of development in themselves. Those sources are the strength of the opposition to old, outmoded reactionary phenomena on the part of emerging new and progressive developments. However, let me reiterate this idea: Without reaction there will be no action. Progressive forces do not emerge in a vacuum without resistance from what is backward.

How are these theoretical conclusions applicable to the practice of contemporary international relations? Take an extreme case. In today's world is it possible to disregard contact with reactionary, conservative regimes? Does a policy of economic, cultural, or diplomatic isolation of such regimes, odious though they sometimes are, accord with the objective interdependence of the world? Of course, it is not a question of recognizing and approving, for instance, the RSA's policy of apartheid and external aggressive actions or Israel's annexationist actions. But let us ask ourselves: With a view to influencing the reactionary attitudes and policy of these states, will their isolation from the world community be a more effective means than diplomatic, cultural, and economic contact with them and the simultaneous influence of the collective intellect, via intensive dialogue, on reactionary attitudes and conservatism in their policy?

Contacts with reactionary regimes can and must be pursued, without giving up principled stands, while criticizing what is reactionary in them, while condemning, but not abandoning dialogue, and without attempting to influence by force, whether via military or economic actions.

Historical experience teaches that the isolation or self-isolation of particular countries leads ultimately to political "ossification" of their regimes since the restriction of international contacts with them also impedes opportunities for constructive, correct external influence. Such countries usually respond to crude, hostile, aggressive external actions against them by intensifying totalitarianism and mobilizing internal resources for their own self-preservation.

So I think that the most promising way of ensuring the general progress of mankind from the dialectical viewpoint lies in creating conditions ensuring that everyone sees a civilized struggle of opposites in world economic, political, and cultural contacts as a natural phenomenon inherent in development.

In other words, steady evolution of both the individual and the nation and community of nations is inconceivable without the activity of a disliked, sometimes reviled, crudely speaking, "mulish" dissenter who constantly objects, disagrees, and questions what is seemingly immutable, and acts in defiance of what is "generally accepted." In the individual this thankless role is played by the "inner self," who criticizes and questions our actions and thoughts, thereby preventing "flabby thinking," so to speak. If that self disappears, a person ceases to develop as an individual and becomes filled with self-satisfaction, complacency, and confidence in his own infallibility.

The same thing also happens in the international community. Countries that are "out of step" stimulate a quest for the optimum decisions and compromises. In short, even the erroneous—at a certain historical stage—actions and policy of certain countries give the international community the strength of positive reaction. How could it be otherwise? Mankind develops, matures, and learns from its mistakes. This is why in human culture and in international contacts unanimity would be tantamount to stagnation and the start of the degradation of civilization and its culture, which develop according to the laws of dialectics.

Long live dialectics, indeed!

Central Electoral Commission Meets 23 Dec
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[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The Central Electoral Commission for the election of USSR people's deputies is receiving hundreds of telegrams and letters today. They contain questions, suggestions, and recommendations. This is absolutely natural. The progress of preparations for the elections cannot fail to be of interest to people today. Under the conditions of the reform of the political system and the development of socialist democracy, citizens are learning how to live and act under these conditions. Each of us is acquiring new political standards. Preparations for the election of the USSR people's deputies acquires extremely great importance in this connection in the life of every person and of society as a whole.

Today we invite you to the Oktyabrskiy salon of the House of the Unions, where a regular sitting of the Central Electoral Commission for the election of the USSR people's deputies has been taking place. Taking

part in its work were Lukyanov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and Khristoradnov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The sitting was opened by Orlov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. [video shows scene in hall as participants prepare for meeting]

[Begin recording] [Orlov] A statement by Comrade Ryzhov, Yuriy Ivanovich, secretary of the Central Electoral Commission:

[Ryzhov] Altogether 325 seats were distributed among 4 groups of public organizations within the framework of the law on the elections. The results of the work that has been carried out are reflected in the documents which you have. Among the cooperative organizations, the greatest number of seats—58—has been received by the kolkhozes brought together by the Kolkhoz Council; 2 seats have been given to the All-Union Association of Fishery Collectives, as we agreed at the last sitting. In the scientific staff group, 30 seats have been given to the USSR Academy of Sciences jointly with 28 scientific societies and associations. Vaskhnil [Academy of Agricultural Sciences Imeni V.I. Lenin] and the Academy of Medical Sciences, jointly with the medical societies, have been given 10 seats each. The Academy of Pedagogical Sciences and the Academy of Arts have five seats each. The Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies of the USSR, embracing 26 societies, has 10 seats. The All-Union Association of Inventors and Rationalizers has five. The creative unions have received 10 seats each. The USSR Union of Designers has five.

Now for the last group of public organizations, which embraces 75 seats. The list of these organizations was confirmed at the previous sitting of the Central Electoral Commission. Dosaaf can elect 15 deputies; the Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR can elect 10; the All-Union Knowledge Society can elect 10. The foundations—and also the Union of Societies for Friendship With Foreign Countries jointly with the Rodina Society and the Soviet Peace Committee jointly with one association—have five seats each. An exception has been made for the Soviet Peace Foundation, which holds elections jointly with a whole range of national public committees for peace, solidarity, and international cooperation: they have been given seven seats. All amateur-activity societies, and the Society Campaigning for Sobriety, have one seat each. Public sporting organizations, forming a single team at the elections, have three seats.

It ought to be reported that following the meeting, the Central Electoral Commission received a letter signed by Comrade Petryan-Sokolov, chairman of the Book Lovers Society, saying that he considers that the importance of that society was not taken into consideration when the quota was determined. But I have to say that the representative of that society who was present at the meeting

at the Central Electoral Commission did not express any such reservations. We have no grounds for singling out that society among the other amateur activities organizations.

Those are the results of work that has been done at your instructions.

The documents placed before you contain statements by the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Presidium of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences. After thorough discussion jointly with representatives of the scientific public, this large academy has decided to allocate 5 seats out of its total—30 seats, as I said—for scientific societies and associations and to conduct elections separately for these seats. This will make it possible for the interests of these societies to be represented more fully and for the elections to be made more democratic. The Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, in connection with the forthcoming considerable renewal of its membership, requests that the holding of elections be deferred to a later date. We consider it possible to agree with these proposals.

Now for several contentious issues. An appeal has been made to the Central Electoral Commission by the coordinating methodological council of the movement of volunteer teams for the protection of nature, which brings together several student volunteer teams. This movement is worthy of all manner of praise and support, but we do not yet have any legal grounds for considering it to be an all-union public organization. The movement does not have rules. Effectively, it is only just being formed as a public organization and it does not have the proper legal status.

The Central Electoral Commission has also received pleas from the Association of Cooperatives of Russia and the interregional cooperative federation for seats to be allocated to them. Under the Law on Cooperatives, cooperatives are able to set up their own associations, the rules of which are not registered. It has to be said that at first some of us were very favorably inclined toward these statements. It was tempting to have representatives of a form of production cooperatives that is only just coming into being among the deputies. But the lawyers cooled down our enthusiasm. The fact is that neither of these associations has the right to regard itself as all-union, because they do not represent even a majority of the union republics in a sufficiently worthy way, not to mention all republics. This is an extremely serious consideration. All all-union public organizations are built upon a principle which enables them to express the interests of sectors of the public in every union republic. They participate on an equal basis in the work of the societies and they have representatives in all-union bodies. Making exceptions to this principle would lead to restricting the interests of the public of the union republics. In these matters we have to be extremely careful.

All these statements were examined by the USSR Ministry of Justice; and the Central Electoral Commission has the relevant conclusions of that ministry.

[Unidentified speaker] The arguments you have just outlined on the contentious issues—were they accepted by the members of these organizations or are they still dissatisfied?

[Ryzhov] Representatives of these organizations are present here. They have known about the conclusions of the Ministry of Justice in advance. We have had repeated discussions with them, but they have been invited to the sitting so that they can express their own point of view.

[Orlov] Comrade [name indistinct] please go ahead.

[Second unidentified speaker] Esteemed comrades, I will try to take as little of your time as possible. I am very grateful for the principles and the lofty appraisal given in the commission's conclusion, but we are obliged to disagree with the legal side of the negative conclusion, although, perhaps, we do not want you to see this as arrogance on our part. This is a question purely about the legal side of the matter. The conclusion of the deputy minister of justice says that we cannot consider ourselves to be an all-union public organization because we do not qualify under the 1932 provisions of the All-Union Central Executive Committee and the RSFSR Council of People's Commissars. We would draw your attention to the fact that certainly the legal side of the question has not been worked out. In our view, the conclusion of the Ministry of Justice is clearly at least not absolutely fair in regard to ourselves, and we would like all of this to be taken into consideration when further work is done on the law in the future.

[Lukyanov] You have raised a serious question, and we would like the Society for the Protection of Nature to be represented in some way in all of our structures. In existence now are republic societies for the protection of nature. They exist on a voluntary basis, with contributions, rules, and everything else. In real terms. The question of setting up a single society is being considered in the country now, although there are arguments about this.

[Second unidentified speaker] Yes, we refused to join it, just as many republic societies did.

[Lukyanov] Indeed. I want to ask you the following question: Even if an overall body of that kind is set up, an all-union body, or if republic-level bodies have been set up, in the first place in what way do your volunteer teams coordinate their work with the voluntary societies, the mass voluntary societies founded...

[Orlov, interrupting] Of the working people.

[Lukyanov] And the second point: Given the fact that yours is a young people's movement—and we do have the Komsomol; and Comrade Denisov is here, and it brings together all the young people's movements—can your movement be represented together with the young people, together with the Komsomol?

[Second unidentified speaker] As far as the question of being represented together with the Komsomol is concerned, of course we have to give an affirmative answer to this question. We cooperate with the Komsomol organization, including the Central Committee of the Komsomol. We are in close contact, enjoying full rights.

[Ryzhov] I would like to express one thought in this connection: To be honest, I have had a preliminary discussion with Comrade Shevtsova at the VLKSM [All-Union Komsomol] Central Committee. I think that overall this movement is sufficiently interesting and useful for it to later become a public organization which we will be able to recognize equally with the others, but it would be possible now to approach the VLKSM with a recommendation and a request on behalf of the Central Electoral Commission that they examine the possibility or the participation of the Komsomol part of this movement in nominating a candidate under the Komsomol list.

[Lukyanov] I would like to offer the comrades a couple of words. This is a serious issue. It would seem to me that the proposal which has been made here should also be reflected in our draft decision; and perhaps we should conclude this draft with a couple of paragraphs as follows: With due consideration for the fact that the representation levels of public organization have been exhausted, it is considered expedient to complete work on determining the levels of representation of the organizations referred to, and to ensure that this issue receives wide coverage in the mass information media, so that people know what the approach is, this has been talked about here. That is the first point. The second point is this: Perhaps we should nevertheless write it down and recommend that the USSR Ministry of Justice, jointly with other departments and scientific institutions, speed up work on preparing an all-union document determining the basic rights and responsibilities of voluntary societies and public volunteer activities bodies of the population, so that there really is a document. Of course, 1932 means a document that is 50 years old. Perhaps we should give that kind of recommendation.

I know that other bodies, too, have given that kind of recommendation to the Ministry of Justice. What we will be talking about is speeding things up so that the whole question can be resolved, as it were.

[Ryzhov] There is one substantive point on which we will have to consult. Usually the constituency electoral commissions in the public system of the commission have been given a program in advance so that on polling day they give us official reports on the turn-out of voters

at the polls at 1200 and 1800. You remember that this information has usually been published in the press. At last year's local soviet elections, for the first time we gave up the collection of data at 1800 hours and convinced ourselves that there were no terrible consequences as a result. The proposal now is that we give up altogether the collection of information about voter turn-out at any hour, because this has always been a kind of whip for the purpose either of driving people to the polling booths or of falsifying data about voter turn-out. Our task amounts to getting the final figures.

[Orlov] Very well. Well, let us vote on this important decision: that we drop the recording of these figures. Everyone in favor of the proposal that Comrade Ryzhov has made please vote. And who is against? Any abstentions? It is adopted.

In accordance with the law, comrades, electoral commissions, constituency electoral commissions, have been formed over the territory of the country within the prescribed time limits. There are still no commissions in four constituencies of the Armenian SSR. We will discuss that issue somewhat later. Electoral commissions have also been formed in all public organizations from which people's deputies of the USSR will be elected. These electoral commissions have also started work, and we have to examine letters from the Central Electoral Commission to the constituency electoral commissions and the electoral commissions of the public organizations setting out the main requirements for their work, and recommendations on the organization and conduct of individual elements in the election campaign. You have seen these documents. Please let us have your views. [passage omitted]

[Third unidentified speaker] Does the constituency electoral commission have the right to register those candidates who have not received the support of the pre-election constituency meeting if such a meeting has been held? And does it have the right to refuse registration to those candidates who have received support?

[Orlov] The commission registers those who have been nominated through the meeting.

[Third unidentified speaker] Imagine a situation where a pre-election constituency meeting has been held. Say that two of the five candidates receive the support of the pre-election constituency meeting, but the others don't go through. Imagine then that there are strong protests that this meeting was set up in an undemocratic way and so on.

[Orlov] If there are any protests, then the legitimacy of that meeting has to be checked and it has to be said quite clearly that it did have the right to register so many, to put forward for registration such and such candidatures, and there should not be any questions about it.

[Ryzhov] If disputes do arise—this is what the law says—then the complaints are sent to the constituency electoral commission or to the Central Electoral commission, which makes the final decision.

[Third unidentified speaker] Excuse me. About this very point, I must insist, the fact is that this has given rise to questions among lawyers in the republic; and because of that I am simply conveying their opinions, precisely because the wording is such that, as has been said, the final decision is made by the electoral commission.

[Orlov] No.

[Third unidentified speaker] But that wording has been repeated on this occasion, too. If, for instance, the electoral commission wants to register a candidate who has not received support at a pre-election constituency election meeting, is it possible for the electoral commission to...

[Orlov, interrupting] It has no right to do so. No one has proposed that candidature.

[Ryzhov] Look, it's written down...

[Third unidentified speaker, interrupting] It's quite clear.

[Orlov] The candidature has been decided by the constituency pre-election meeting; by democratic means it has voted by a majority and so on. You can see that. The commission is obliged to register what has been proposed by the constituency pre-election if that meeting was competent.

[Third unidentified speaker] Everything is clear. [end recording]

[Announcer] The members of the commission discussed all the issues in an open, interested, and constructive way. In view of the novelty of many of the law's requirements, the Central Electoral Commission decided to send letters to the constituency electoral commissions and the commissions for the election of people's deputies representing the public organizations, providing specific recommendations on the organization and conduct of elections in such a way that the observance of democratic standards and principles, and openness and glasnost in the preparations for the elections is ensured at all stages in the election campaign. The commission examined issues concerning the form of the election documents. The most serious attention of all commissions taking part in the organization of the elections was drawn to the need for precise and high legal standards in work on documents, for rigorous fulfillment of the requirements of the legislation in these matters.

The Central Electoral Commission adopted the proposal of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium that the time limits for individual pre-election measures be

changed in those of the republic's constituencies whose territory was hit by the earthquake. Also examined were issues concerning the provision of legal literature and paper for the election campaign and the organization of stable communications with the commissions locally. A plan of work for January 1989 was mapped out.

[Video switches to Journalist Vitaliy Sokolyanskiy interviewing Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission V.P. Orlov in the empty hall where the session was held] [Begin recording] [Sokolyanskiy] The second session of the Central Electoral Commission on the elections of USSR people's deputies took place in a fairly hectic atmosphere of debate. Could you tell us as briefly as possible about the functions of the Electoral Commission, what you are engaged in now, and what are you going to be doing throughout the election campaign. I believe many of our viewers will be interested in this question.

[Orlov] Judging by the letters and telephone calls received by the Central Electoral Commission, the elections for USSR people's deputies will and are being held under the new conditions—conditions of democracy and glasnost. No doubt you have noticed the large size of the corps of correspondents present at the commission's sitting today.

It needs to be said that in the near future the election campaign will be entering its next stage. The first stage has now been completed—the nomination of representatives for the constituency electoral commissions, the forming of the electoral commissions, and the publication of these. The same kind of work is being carried out and has already been carried out in the public organizations, where electoral commissions for the elections of USSR people's deputies have been set up.

At today's commission session we examined a whole range of issues. Among them I would pick out two main ones: We examined the results of joint sittings of authorized leading electoral bodies of the public organizations on the issue of the representation of each public organization in the election of people's deputies. It has to be said that preparatory work was carried out and we reached general agreement. The public organizations which have the right to participate in the elections under the law have been given the appropriate number of seats on a consultative basis—we have done all of this with their agreement. The commission made a decision today in accordance with these recommendations.

The second thing to which I would like to draw attention is the fact that today we examined documents linked with recommendations to the constituency electoral commissions and the commissions on the election of people's deputies for the public organizations for practical aspects of their work. Of course, it was impossible to reflect everything fully in the law; many issues are being encountered anew. And through these documents we have

tried to provide assistance to the commissions in their work. These documents will be valuable material for conducting electoral work. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Election Commission Secretary Explains Campaign
LD2712130088 Moscow TASS in English 1246 GMT
27 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 27 TASS—A campaign to elect people's deputies of the USSR, which got underway in the Soviet Union, occupies a key place in the system of measures aimed at carrying out a political reform in the country, a TASS correspondent was told by Secretary of the Central Election Commission Yuriy Ryzhov.

The forthcoming election, he noted, will lay the groundwork for reconstructing the supreme bodies of state power of the Soviet Union so that they could tackle major tasks of perestroika in the next few years. "Therefore we are interested in having principled, interested and active people, devoted to socialism, elected as people's deputies," Ryzhov said.

Speaking about the differences between the current and previous election campaigns, the secretary of the commission drew attention to the fact that a lot of new things were introduced into the organization and preparation of elections. At the same time all manner of procedural regulations have been reduced. The role of the Central Election Commission also changed. It not only exercises control over the observance of law at election but also judges contentious issues which can and will arise in the future.

The secretary named as an absolutely new element of the election campaign the election of people's deputies from public organizations. There are no analogues in the world practice, he stressed. "In this case we are treading an uncharted path and each step of ours should be regarded from the point of view of democracy and strict compliance with the democratic norms."

Meetings with the representatives of public organizations were already held at the Central Election Commission and deputy mandates were distributed among them. Mandates have been issued to a total of 38 organizations which unite and draw into election more than 100 societies and associations. Requests for mandates from some organizations were not met because they did not meet the requirements of the law which said that all-union public organizations with all-union bodies were allowed to take part in elections. For this reason requests from the Nature Conservation Movement, the "Rossiya" Cooperative Association and several other organizations were rejected.

Minister of Justice Kravtsov Interviewed
AU2812081988 Sofia ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME
in Bulgarian 23 Dec 88 p 5

[Interview with Boris Kravtsov, USSR minister of justice, by Krum Blagov, ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME reporter: "Legal Reform—Inseparable From Restructuring"—in Sofia, date not given]

[Text] The second session of CEMA's Permanent Commission on Legal Issues took place last week in Sofia. The Soviet delegation was led by Boris Kravtsov, USSR minister of justice, who was kind enough to answer questions from a representative of our editorial board about the legal reform that is taking place in the USSR.

[Blagov] Comrade Kravtsov, what is the goal of the legal reform and what meaning do you ascribe to the concept of the socialist legal state?

[Kravtsov] I would say that the legal reform is an integral part of restructuring in our country and that it creates guarantees and conditions for continuing restructuring. There are three preconditions for creating the socialist legal state: First—the supremacy of the law, which means that everyone, citizens and supreme governmental organs alike, must be subject to law. Second—guarantees for protecting the legal interests of the state from the citizens, and the interests of the citizens from the state. Third—it is necessary to construct an efficient mechanism for defending rights against any encroachment. Steps have already adopted in this direction, including at the most recent session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which adopted the law on amendments and addenda to the USSR Constitution.

[Blagov] It has been announced that a committee on constitutional supervision has been established. This is the first time that such an organ has been established in the USSR, and perhaps in the entire socialist world. What prompted the decision to establish the committee?

[Kravtsov] The committee will be responsible for ensuring that the laws that have been adopted do not contradict the USSR Constitution, and that the legal acts of the government, ministries, and union republics do not contradict the laws. This is one of the organs that, in our view, are necessary for implementing the principles of the socialist legal state. Of course, there is still a lot to do in restructuring the work of the courts and arbitration, and generally, in enhancing the role and authority of the judicial organs.

[Blagov] Does it mean that you will introduce a full separation of powers between the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities?

[Kravtsov] No. In future the Supreme Soviet will become a constantly functioning legislative, administrative, and control organ of state power between session of the Congress of the USSR People's Deputies. As you see, it

will unite these functions; however, the idea is to guarantee the independence of the court and the equality of the sides to the litigation. It has been envisaged that in future judges will be elected for the longer period of 10 years. This election will be effected by a superior council in order to avoid dependence on local authorities. In the same context, we are working on a law related to the status of the judges, which will be adopted in 1989 and which, among other things, envisages the guaranteeing of normal living and working conditions for judges, so that, for example they will not have to beg the council for an apartment.

The institution of the court jurors, who do not always carry out the role prescribed to them, has evoked many disputes. There are even proposals to discontinue this institution. Everything is still in the sphere of discussions, however; I think that the most probable solution will be to increase the number of judges and jurors in complex cases.

Measures have been adopted to prevent administrative arbitrariness. A law that expands control over the activity of officials has been adopted. In specific cases, their actions can be appealed at the courts. However, there are still many procedures that are completely administrative. Thus, if certain categories of workers or leaders are fired, they can appeal the decision only before the higher organ. I think that this is incorrect, and in future we must expand the prerogatives of the court.

We are also working on a new penal code. Evidently, the right to legal defense will expand and lawyers will be allowed to participate in the judicial process at an earlier stage. This will impose changes in procedural legislature and in the law on lawyers' activity.

[Blagov] Many jurists, and most of all investigators and prosecutors, are concerned that this will impede the investigation of crimes. Up until 5 years ago, you were RSFSR prosecutor; you have long experience in this field. What is your opinion?

[Kravtsov] There really are such concerns, but in my opinion they are unfounded. I think that only unprepared investigators and prosecutors fear the expansion of the right to legal defense. Those who are highly qualified have nothing to fear, and I think that eventually their opinion will prevail and will be reflected in the law.

[Blagov] When will the legal reform end?

[Kravtsov] Some of the changes are already a fact; more draft laws will be introduced in 1989. The Committee on Constitutional Supervision will also be elected next year, when the first congress of USSR people's deputies convenes. It has been envisaged that all the issues we have discussed here will be resolved by the end of 1989.

Supreme Court Official on Criminal Code Reform
LD2712114488 Moscow TASS in English 1136 GMT
27 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 27 (TASS)—“One should resort to deprivation of liberty only when other measures have been exhausted,” deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Court Aleksandr Filatov formulated in this way the main principle underlining the draft new Soviet criminal code.

Commenting at the request of a TASS correspondent on the draft put to public discussion recently, Aleksandr Filatov said: “Until now gradation of punishment was in descending order from the most severe: imprisonment, corrective labour, probation, fine and public censure. The draft reverses this and orients courts to resorting to measures which do not involve imprisonment.”

Aleksandr Filatov quoted statistics and sociological surveys which showed that excessively long prison terms left little hopes for returning a convict to normal life. The effect of “growing accustomed” often proves stronger than that of punishment. Therefore the new draft provides for lowering the maximum terms of imprisonment from 15 years to 10. Only in rare, strictly specified cases, grave crimes can be punishable by 15 years in prison.

As for the capital punishment, it is regarded as a temporary existing sole penalty, the deputy chairman of the Supreme Court said. It can be used only for a premeditated murder with aggravating circumstances, the rape of minors and other most dangerous state crimes. The law rules out capital punishment for people under 18, women and men over 60.

Jurists Protest Ministry Interference

PM2312160388 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 December 1988 Second Edition carries on page 3 under the rubric “Discussion Platform” and the headline “Lawyers’ Association” a feature comprising a 600-word letter from a group of Soviet scientific and cultural figures and a 1,700-word interview with Uzbek SSR Honored Jurist, Doctor of Juridical Sciences I.A. Libus, member of the Tashkent City Lawyers Collegium. The feature is prefaced with the following PRAVDA introduction:

“Democracy and glasnost have highlighted the real situation regarding legality in the country and the actual protection of citizens’ rights and freedoms. The 19th party conference attached great significance to enhancing the role of the legal profession as a self-governing association in giving legal assistance to citizens, state enterprises, and cooperatives. Such an association is now being created. Unfortunately, arguments have flared up around it. We publish two viewpoints on this topic.”

This is followed by the letter signed by Academician N. Bogolyubov; Academician K. Valiyev; Doctor of Juridical Sciences A. Mishin, professor at Moscow State University; M. Rozovski, playwright and producer; USSR People’s Artist O. Tabakov; USSR People’s Artist M. Khutsiyev, movie director; and USSR People’s Artist M. Ulyanov:

“The constituent congress of the country’s lawyers is to open in Moscow 23 December and is to create a union (association) of Soviet lawyers, adopt its statutes, elect its leading organs, and also nominate candidate USSR people’s deputies from the new social organization. This decision was adopted at the organizing committee’s 26 November plenary session, in which representatives of the majority of the country’s lawyers collegiums participated. The report of this, which appeared in the central press (SOVETSKAYA KULTURA 8 December), was greeted with profound satisfaction by the public. The state of affairs in the Soviet legal profession has aroused and continues to arouse concern not only among lawyers.

“The place of the legal profession in our society’s political system and the rights with which it is endowed are problems that affect everyone. The legal profession had been kept down for decades. How could it have been otherwise during the years when the flywheel of Stalinist repressions was being cranked and nonjudicial organs were administering the law instead of a real court?!”

“A professionally strong, bold, and independent legal body is undoubtedly one of society’s aspirations and an obligatory attribute of a rule-of-law state. We believe that the 19th party conference proceeded from just this premise in adopting the decision to enhance the role of the legal profession as a self-governing association. In light of what we have said, we are extremely dismayed at the stance of the USSR Ministry of Justice, which for a long time has been stubbornly and directly opposing, and still opposes, the creation of an all-union voluntary social organization in the country—the Union of Soviet Lawyers.

“On 7 December this year, the ministry convened a conference of lawyers collegium presidium chairmen, at which a decision was adopted to create a new preparatory committee (not of lawyers but of collegium leaders, that is, essentially of administrators) to draw up new draft statutes and convene an all-union lawyers conference in the distant future. In this way the entire preparatory work of the earlier-created organizing committee was nullified, this committee and its auxiliary organs were eliminated, and the convening of the constituent congress announced for 23 December was canceled.

“Insulting mistrust of the lawyer community’s initiative has been expressed, and a democratic path has been replaced by crude bureaucratic administration. Moreover, the indefinite deferment of the creation of the Union of Soviet Lawyers precludes the possibility of the participation of the legal profession in the person of its

all-union social organization in nominating from its midst candidate USSR people's deputies—candidates highly competent in the sphere of law. Has any thought been given to this by those who have decided to use the old administrative-edict methods to cancel the constituent congress?

"We would very much like to believe that the interests of creating a truly independent, self-governing legal profession will gain the upper hand over departmental ambitions and that the USSR Ministry of Justice not only will not oppose, but will also give the organization that is being created real, not imaginary, assistance."

The letter is followed by a PRAVDA correspondent interview with I.A. Libus, who is deputy chairman of the preparatory committee elected at the USSR Ministry of Justice 7 December. The interviewee defends the ministry's decision to set up a new committee, claiming that the earlier committee did not represent lawyers from all parts of the country or express their wide range of views. He goes on to say that the new committee includes not only lawyers collegium presidium chairmen, but also scholars, jurists, and ordinary lawyers, and that the constituent conference is expected to be held in Moscow in mid-February 1989. He says that it would have been wrong to hold it 23 December "without statutes which had been discussed by lawyers themselves in their collectives" and that "it is hardly justified to make haste just so that our association can nominate candidate people's deputies."

The following passage concludes the interview:

"[Correspondent] Izrail Aronovich, in our view passions would have subsided if the Ministry of Justice had been more flexible in its approach 7 December to the formation of the preparatory committee, and included in it some comrades from the committee created earlier.

"[Libus] As I have already said, the organizing committee includes representatives of the one created earlier. It was not possible to include half, let us say, or one-fourth because all parts of the country have to be represented. We did undertake to increase the Moscow City Collegium's representation. Unfortunately, there are no comrades from the Moscow Oblast Collegium.

"On the whole, in my view, the passions around the association are of an emotional rather than a professional nature, and we must evidently wish the finally emerging association greater businesslike efficiency in creating a professional, bold, and independent legal body, as the well-known scientific and cultural figures justly write to PRAVDA."

Forced Treatment of Drunks, Addicts Revised
LD2312221888 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 23 Dec 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, together with the USSR Ministry of Health and a number of other ministries and departments, has finished

drafting proposals for refining the system of forced treatment of alcoholics and drug addicts. Our correspondent spoke to Vyacheslav Leonidovich Romanov, doctor of medical science and department head at the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Vyacheslav Leonidovich, what is the reason for this revision of the system of forced treatment in treatment-and-labor clinics and for the reorganization of such establishments?

[Romanov] I would say, above all, that it is because of imperfections in the legal basis. Treatment in these establishments involves, I would say, considerable restrictions for the patients—isolation, a strict regime, restrictions on receiving correspondence and parcels and on meeting relatives, and so on. It is perfectly clear that such tough restrictions are not required for every patient; there are some who could be successfully treated, although forcibly, in health care establishments with a greater degree of freedom. And then there is a clear lack of legal protection for the patients as regards decisions concerning forced treatment. Finally, of course, many of the working methods in the treatment-and-labor clinics were adopted 20 years ago from corrective establishments and have now become obsolete. [passage omitted]

As for the measures to guarantee legal protection for alcoholic patients, above all where forced treatment is concerned, they include, first and foremost, confirmation by a commission of the diagnosis leading to referral for forced treatment, participation by a lawyer in the court procedure—which is not provided for at the moment—and, finally and most importantly in our view, the patient's right to appeal to a higher authority against a court decision to send him for forced treatment. And finally, there will be substantial changes to the actual status and work organization of the clinics. Above all, of course, this means getting rid as far as possible of the attributes adopted from corrective establishments. Apart from that, priority will be given to medical and psychological-pedagogical methods of influencing, of handling the patients. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] It is known that the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs is already taking certain measures, and that measures have been drawn up for making the treatment process more humane. How are these being implemented?

[Romanov] Yes, we have taken a number of such measures within the framework of the existing legislation. We have done what we can. In particular, we have abolished more than 30 restrictions which were stipulated without any justification by ministry instructions drawn up in the past. But to be frank with you, this is no more than half a step forward, and it has naturally produced few results. We have come up against a very serious difficulty or obstacle here: in particular, its

turning out to be very difficult to effect a psychological restructuring among the staff at the treatment-and-labor clinics, to tune in to a new and humane wavelength, so to speak.

But there is another factor that I would like to mention: the conduct of the patients themselves. Recently, this has noticeably deteriorated. Under the pretext of fighting for restructuring and for speeding up the adoption of new legislation, groups of individuals with a negative attitude are failing to turn up for work and practising disobedience, sometimes accompanying this with hooliganism and even crimes. [passage omitted]

TASS Notes Formation of Socioecological Union
LD2712155388 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT
27 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 27 TASS—A socio-ecological union has been formed in the USSR. It is an all-union public organization which unites various ecological societies, groups of environmentalists, scientists. The constituent conference with the participation of their representatives—some 150 delegates from eleven union republics and 100 cities of the USSR—ended today.

"The main tasks of our union are to monitor the state of the environment, control the observance of legislation on the use of nature, popularise ecological knowledge, organize countrywide actions for environmental protection", a TASS correspondent was told by Svyatoslav Zabelin, director of the Coordination and Information Centre of the Socio-Ecological Union. "The drafting of a number of alternative economic projects will be a subsequent step. The union's activity is based on the principles of self-management and self-financing. The union's working body, the Coordination and Information Centre, collects the necessary information on the state of the environment, furnishes it to organizations concerned, forms working groups to deal with separate problems. We have our own press body, 'NEWS-LETTER OF THE SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL UNION'".

On the final day of the conference today its delegates adopted an appeal to the government bodies and scientific institutions of the country to stop the construction of the Volga-Chograi Canal as it would cause a sharp deterioration of the ecological situation in the lower reaches of the Volga and would damage the national economy. Actions of protest against the canal's construction are also planned. The union has outlined programmes for the study of the alternative sources of energy, protection of rare animals, the studies of the ecology of an industrial city, etc.

"We intend to block the advance of those who are eager to transform nature. We wish to become a green spout that bursts the asphalt they lay", Svyatoslav Zabelin said.

Western Papers To Go On Sale 1 January
LD2612095388 Moscow TASS in English 0937 GMT
26 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—By TASS staff writer Mark Smith:

The recent announcement that selected Western newspapers and magazines will be sold in the Soviet Union from January 1st 1989 will surely be welcomed by Soviet English-language students, expatriates and tourists alike. The publications: THE GUARDIAN, THE TIMES, FINANCIAL TIMES plus the American magazines NEWSWEEK and TIME and the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE will be available from foreign news kiosks in major cities.

For the time being the numbers on sale will be limited to 350 copies of the GUARDIAN and 400 each of the FINANCIAL TIMES and the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, and the price will naturally be higher than normal: one rouble 20 kopecks for the INT. HERALD TRIBUNE, 80 kopeks for THE TIMES and three roubles for NEWSWEEK. The Soviet agency for foreign publications has said that orders will be increased if demand proves great and this seems likely.

The Soviet people are generally industrious but discriminating readers. In Moscow queues come and go but if a popular newspaper or magazine is on sale, like OGON-YOK for instance, or the Russian-language edition of MOSCOW NEWS, the kiosk is sure to be besieged. People read voraciously in the metro, on buses and trains, while standing in queues, before the film at the cinema, or just walking along the street.

Newspapers here may be cheap, only five kopeks for PRAVDA and three for Moscow's evening paper, and then, usually only four to six pages, but they are certainly not ignored. Language is a serious business in this country of Pushkin, Lermontov, Dostoyevskiy and Tolstoy and journalism is especially important now glasnost has come of age. If you need proof of this just look at the reaction when strict newspaper and magazine subscription limits were announced in August. There were howls of protest, television debates were organised, angry voices were heard. The limits have since been lifted but the Soviet reading appetite also seems limitless.

What do Muscovites do with their old newspapers? Answer—they read them. Some kiosks in Moscow have started to sell second-hand newspapers to meet demand. Newspapers are even put on display stands for those who can't get to the kiosks in time.

It seems in no other country do people strive to such an extent to be well-informed and this obviously bodes well for the sale of Western publications. Western tourists are often surprised by the number of people here who speak English and so the language won't discourage, and the new arrivals will fill an important gap—previously the

only English and American publications available here were the British Communist Party's *MORNING STAR* and the U.S. Communist Party's *PEOPLES' DAILY WORLD*.

The fact that the new arrivals, which certainly cannot be called "pro-Soviet", will be sold here at all says a lot about increased openness in the Soviet Union. As 1988 gives way to 1989 and Western newspapers and magazines appear here the end of the year also seem to mark an end to the suspicion, hostility and aggression of the cold war and the beginning of our shared future.

New Newspaper on Childhood Problems Published
LD2512054488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0300 GMT 25 Dec 88

[Text] The *MIR DETSTVA* [The World of Childhood] newspaper is the most expensive one in the country. It has not been entered in any catalogue of periodicals. Yet readers greeted its recent appearance in newspaper stalls of Tselinograd with particular interest. Addressing the readers, the publishers—the Oblast section of the Soviet Lenin Children Fund and public organizations—write that they see their goal as giving people more detailed and comprehensive information about their activity, drawing their attention to the topical problems of childhood, and contributing to their solution. A single issue of the well-illustrated and colorful newspaper costs 50 kopeks. It has been set for charitable purposes. All the proceeds from the sale will go to the account of the Soviet Lenin Children Fund.

Economic

Price Increase Rumors Creating Shortages
PM2312122188 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY
in Russian No 52, 24-30 Dec 88 (Signed to Press
21 Dec 88) 88 p 8

[Interview with I. Gorbachev, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee on Prices, by own correspondent D. Grantsev, answering a reader's letter about rumors on impending price rises for consumer goods]

[Text] There are rumors that prices for furniture, television sets, jewelry, and other goods will be raised as of January 1989.

[Signed] A. Pylaykova, Yoshkar-Ola.

Our correspondent D. Grantsev has asked I. Gorbachev, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee on Prices, to answer this claim.

[I. Gorbachev] This is not a new problem. Rumors serve to seriously disorient the population and lead to panic buying. When this happens, anything that is on the shelves is bought up, indiscriminately. This creates an abnormal situation in the trade network and serious

damage is caused to a market already suffering from a shortage of goods. Ultimately, people spend more than they can afford out of their family budget.

I can state with the utmost responsibility that the **USSR State Committee on Prices does not envisage any rise in state retail prices for consumer goods**. On the contrary, because the validity of temporary prices expires in January 1989, retail prices for certain groups of nonfood goods (mainly textiles, and cultural, consumer, and household goods) will go down by between 10 and 30 percent. Around R100 million has been allocated for this purpose from the budget.

On government instructions the USSR State Committee on Prices, in cooperation with a number of other departments, is completing the elaboration of a system of economic and other measures aimed at overcoming negative tendencies in the current system of price formation. It is planned to reinforce economic incentives to promote increased production of inexpensive goods needed by the population, bearing in mind the needs of the various sections of consumers. Specifically, as of 1989, the state order submitted to light industry enterprises makes provision for the production of low-cost goods for children and older people. For instance, boots for older people will be produced at a retail price of R40, shoes at R15, slippers at R10, wool suits at a maximum of R80, and men's shirts at a maximum of R6.

I can say that a number of questions concerning the increased production of cheap goods have already been resolved. So, in order to stimulate the production of goods for older people and children and their sale at low retail prices, a decision has been adopted to introduce fixed markups on wholesale prices and additional discounts (over and above trade discounts) on fabrics and materials. The USSR State Committee on Prices is introducing them as of 1 January 1989. The state will pay from the budget at least R1.5 billion annually for this purpose.

It seems to us that someone needs the rumors for their own mercenary purposes. The formula is simple: Creating a shortage in order to exploit it.

I can say that we are currently proceeding with the serious elaboration of all questions pertaining to the reform of the price formation system. The proposals formulated will be submitted for nationwide discussion. The complex questions of the retail price reform will be definitively resolved only on the basis of the results of this discussion.

RSFSR Economy Causes 'Serious Concern'
PM2312155188 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 23 Dec 88 Second Edition p 1

[V. Shilov "Economic Commentary": "How Are We Ending the Year? Shortcomings in the Acceleration Effort"]

[Text] Close acquaintance with the December bulletin of the RSFSR State Committee for Statistics gives rise to serious concern rather than satisfaction. Take, for

instance, the main general indicator—the national income produced. It increased by 4.2 percent over the first 11 months of this year, which is double last year's figure. A similar leap forward was achieved in the productivity of social labor. Last year the growth rate totaled 2.3 percent, against 4.7 percent this year. Does this mean that we have done well? Everything is relative, as they say. **On the whole our performance was better than last year's, but appreciably poorer than planned.** For instance, industrial output was to increase by 4.2 percent in accordance with the 5-year plan control figures, yet the increase during the January-November period totaled only 3.6 percent. In order to attain the planned level in December, it would be necessary to increase the volume of output on average by 10.8 percent, and in the case of a number of key types of equipment, materials, and other goods, daily output would have to increase by between 25 and 75 percent. Is this feasible? Hardly. But it is necessary, of course, to do everything in our power to narrow the gap and to avoid transferring yesterday's difficulties and omissions to the future.

The performance of the fuel and energy and metallurgical complex associations and enterprises was more stable this year. However, it seems that people at many enterprises in a number of sectors and regions are reconciled to the fact that it is impossible to attain the planned level. And even worse, as regards a number of key socioeconomic indicators, end results have decreased in comparison with past achievements. So, for instance, the number of enterprises which have failed to fulfill their contract commitments increased in November.

The situation is particularly strained in the machine building complex, where one in two enterprises has incurred a debt and the overall shortfall in deliveries totals R800 millions' worth of goods. The delivery discipline situation has virtually reached crisis point in construction and road machine building. Here 8 in 10 enterprises have demonstrated their unreliability as partners. The Voronezh excavator plant, Chelyabinsk road building machinery plant, the Orel "Dormashina" association, the Novosibirsk "Sibstroy Mash" associations, and many others are failing to meet their deliveries of excavators, earth-moving equipment, road graders, bulldozers, crushers, and so forth. This is placing road construction subdivisions in an extremely difficult position and is condemning the state "Non-Chernozem Roads" program to lag behind schedule. The poor situation in construction and road machine building is by now chronic. This important sector is creating a bottleneck for the entire national economy. We believe that the government bureau in charge of the machine building complex should closely and constructively analyze the reasons for the Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building Ministry's lag.

The attention of the competent government organs should also be drawn to the work of enterprises which produce equipment for the light industry. The delivery plan is being met only in respect of 7 of 36 types of

machines. Targets for the production of technological equipment and spare parts for enterprises in the textile, knitwear, felt, and leather footwear industries are not being met. This was thoroughly discussed at a recent session of the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium. Specific instructions were issued to leaders of ministries and departments, including the defense industry. **However, no noticeable changes have occurred so far as regards the needs of the light and processing industries.**

Enterprises of the chemical and timber complex have run up the biggest debt to clients and consumers, having failed to deliver R1,033,000,000 worth of goods since the beginning of the year. The performance of chemical plants and combines is attracting serious criticism, especially as regards the production of progressive, highly effective types of plastics and goods made from them. In recent months acute shortages of synthetic detergents have arisen. This is not the first time that this has happened, and every time the state has to pay for the sluggishness of the chemical industry workers by having to import the goods which are in wide demand. Meanwhile our capacities for the production of detergents are put to extremely poor use, working on average to 65 percent of their capacity. An installation for the production of 60,000 tonnes of detergent at the Sterlitamak "Soda" association has still not been commissioned despite the fact that it should have reached its rated capacity 3 years ago. At the "Novomoskovskbytkhim" association an installation for the production of various powders, pastes, and other detergents—in all 200,000 tonnes per year—was to have started production 5 years ago. Around R29 millions' worth of equipment was imported for this purpose. However, the general contractor—the Ministry of Construction in the Northern and Western Regions of the USSR—has turned this project into a permanent construction site, while local soviet and party organs clearly underestimated the social importance of this project.

An analysis of the information furnished by the RSFSR State Committee for Statistics has exposed such a negative trend as the **deepening of the disproportion between the population's growing purchasing power and the possibilities of satisfying it.** Over the past 11 months the money incomes of the republic's population have increased by 9.2 percent in comparison with the corresponding period last year, which is more than double the growth rate envisaged by the plan. Expenditure on the purchase of goods and payment for services has increased by 7.1 percent, which is 1 percent below the planned balance. As a result of this, considerable sums of money remain in the population's hands and R11.5 billion have been paid into savings bank accounts.

The rapid and, let's be frank, by no means always justifiable growth of the population's money incomes is exacerbating the strained situation as regards goods and increasing the scale of the shortages. If the state order for retail commodity turnover is fulfilled as expected, its volume will increase by 6.4 percent. Approximately

one-third of this increase is accounted for by higher average retail prices. Nonetheless, the gulf separating it from the money income growth rate remains very great. In conditions of shortages even goods which formerly did not sell and have been in the stores for a long time are being sold.

What is the situation as regards food products? Some 7 percent more meat products and 6 percent more dairy products have been marketed. However, this is obviously not enough to substantially improve supplies to the population. In one-third of the RSFSR meat is sold on coupons. Sales of animal fat are organized in the same way in Volgograd and Rostov Oblasts, in the Dagestan, Chencheng-Ingush, Udmurt, and Yakut ASSR's, and in a number of other regions. Potato and vegetable supplies to the population are poorer than last year. Sales of these products are 19 percent below target. At the same time the plan for the storage of these products has been considerably underfulfilled. This means that it is extremely important to ensure that what has been procured is well preserved and that losses and waste are reduced to a minimum. A virtually general shortage of confectionary goods persists. The delivery plan has been fulfilled and deliveries to the trade network have even slightly increased against last year. However, RSFSR Ministry of Trade orders are being met only 80 percent. The sugar shortage is being overcome with great difficulty. Some 6 percent more sugar has been delivered to the trade network. However, in 67 territories sales are still rationed. The total stocks of sugar this year are slightly below last year's. However, supplies to the retail trade network have been increased through reduced deliveries to wholesale trade and industry.

What is happening to consumer durables? The list of goods in short supply has become longer. It is difficult to buy color television sets and tape recorders and almost impossible to buy video equipment. Refrigerators and washing machines seem to have vanished.... Shelves in footwear and linen departments look bare. People, indignant at having to wait in line, cannot understand: Where have all the goods gone? What answer can economic statistics give to this question? **Incomes are double that envisaged, and the deliveries of the goods for which demand is greatest are lower than planned.** For instance, the trade network has failed to receive R1.2 billion worth of many types of knitwear, clothing, and footwear. The target for the delivery to the retail trade network of timber processing industry goods is being fulfilled only 60-80 percent. A new trend has also emerged. Enterprises prefer to market their goods on the foreign rather than the domestic market. So the entire increase in the production of refrigerators (4 percent) went for export, which increased by 140 percent, while deliveries of refrigerators to Russian stores decreased by 18 percent. Orders for next year are only 55 percent covered.

As we can see, the rapid growth of money incomes which are not backed up by a correspondingly rapid, or—even better—a more rapid growth of goods production is by

no means promoting the fuller satisfaction of our social and consumer needs and, worse than that, it is stimulating inflationary processes. When there is more and more money around but no increase in goods it is clear that money falls in value but goods become more expensive. **Despite the official stability of retail prices that has been proclaimed, prices have now increased as follows:** by 6-8 percent for various textiles, by 9 percent for knitted goods, and by 15 percent for leather footwear. The tendency for cheaper ranges of goods to disappear from sale, which has been condemned both by the public and by official bodies, is assuming an increasingly broad scale. Since the beginning of the year the output of light industry goods that are expensive by virtue of a price markup has increased 30-49 percent, but the production of all other types of items has waned by 6-7 percent. Thus, the average statistical growth in the volume of light industry production—7-8 percent—is merely a dupe, because it signifies not an increase in real goods but merely an increase in their gross value, and it is easy to see that these are by no means one and the same thing.

When speaking of the crucial sore spots of the outgoing economic year, **it is impossible to ignore the failures in the pace of housing construction.** We have not succeeded in consolidating the acceleration in the building of social projects which had been achieved last year. Over the past 11 months the annual plan for commissioning apartment blocks was fulfilled only 66 percent, which is lower than last year's level. This year preschool establishments, outpatient clinics and health centers, vocational and technical schools, clubs, and cultural centers are being built far more slowly. And yet it would appear that every rayon has a housing construction program for providing each family with a self-contained apartment or a house by the year 2000. Housing construction problems were discussed comprehensively and in detail this year at sessions of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, the autonomous republics, and local soviets. This might have been expected to stimulate the acceleration of the pace of social construction. But, strange as it may seem, the reverse has transpired: People talked and became complacent.

The example of housing construction would seem to emphasize that it is not enough to put forward a socially necessary goal, to draw up an engineering and economic program and to enthusiastically discuss and ratify it. The main thing is the practical implementation of the set tasks and of the socially attractive programs. Restructuring is entering the phase of vigorous practical action. In this sense the imminent year of 1989 must be a turning point in terms of results. To a great extent it has been made more complicated by the lag that has built up in a number of areas. Great effort and resources will be diverted into eliminating the consequences of the tragic earthquake in Armenia. Under these conditions an especially high level of organization and strenuous application of efforts will be required.

Agricultural

Nikonov Addresses Smolensk Oblast Meeting

PM2712182588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
25 Dec 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report under the rubric "At the Party Conferences": "Sharing the People's Concerns and Needs"]

[Text] Smolensk, 24 Dec—The report and election conference of the Smolensk Oblast party organization was dominated not by joy in celebration of past successes but by concern about accelerating the pace of the national economy's restructuring, further deepening glasnost and democratization, and strengthening the Soviet state.

V.P. Nikonov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in its work.

The keynote report by A.A. Vlasenko, first secretary of Smolensk Party Obkom, and the speeches by G.Ye. Chernetsova, leader of an integrated team on the "Zarya" Kolkhoz; N.I. Isayenkova, machine operator at the Dorogobuzh nitric fertilizers plant; V.I. Anisimov, first secretary of Smolensk party gorkom; A.V. Maksimov, secretary of the Smolensk construction materials combine party committee; V.I. Loguseva, feed production team leader on the "Seleznevskiy" sovkhoz, and others noted that the ideas of restructuring are having a favorable effect on our society's development, on the upsurge of the economy and the social sphere, and on the spiritual rebirth of Soviet society. The oblast's Communists and all working people are striving for a breakthrough in every labor collective's work and are boosting the militancy of party organizations where, in essence, all threads of restructuring are concentrated.

The current report and election campaign is a rigorous test for Communists and party committees. Most meetings and conferences have been held in a spirit of high demandingness and party criticism and self-criticism. Over 1,300 remarks and suggestions were addressed to party leaders, and more than 7,000 proposals were submitted for the democratization of party and social life and the improvement of the practical leadership of economic and cultural building. Communists also adopted a more demanding approach toward the election of the new party aktiv. Almost three-fourths of party group organizers and 44 percent of shop organization secretaries were elected from among two or more candidates running for election, while 35 percent of party secretaries failed to win the vote of trust to head party organizations under the new conditions.

The oblast's Communists have encountered considerable difficulties and complications in the course of restructuring. Stagnation in the economy and especially in the agro-industrial complex, laggardness in the social sphere, and shortcomings in ideological and educational work demanded more decisive actions.

The most sensitive issue for people in the Smolensk region is the supply of foodstuffs for the population. Therefore, the implementation of the Food Program occupies a central position in the activity of the party obkom and raykoms. The average annual purchases of meat, milk, and eggs have increased as a result of the implementation of numerous measures. Rayons and farms which were chronically laggard in the past are now on their way up. At the same time, speakers noted, the measures taken by the oblast party organization to improve the state of affairs in the agro-industrial complex fail to produce the expected results. Kolkhoz and sovkhoz output during the 1st 3 years of the 5-year plan period fell short by some R295 million. Grain crop and potato harvest yields in the oblast are low, and the flax growers have lost their former glory. The situation prevailing in the countryside cannot be tolerated.

Delegates criticized the party obkom because the former administrative-edict style is frequently present in its actions, and it rarely uses competitive conditions when promoting people to leadership positions. Party obkom members and apparatus officials hardly ever visit primary organizations and labor collectives.

V.P. Nikonov addressed the conference. He said in particular: While actively renewing its policy and cleansing itself of the negative past, our party relies on the firm will of the people who want to build their life on truth without any dramatization or extreme opinions.

I would like to emphasize that this is indeed confirmed by the atmosphere at your party conference. The only important point is to ensure that nobody loses sight of the guidelines or deviates from the path in this complex work and struggle, in the overcoming of antirestructuring forces.

It is very important to ensure that our movement is constantly accompanied by clarity of objectives, accuracy of stance, and responsibility so that, in the flow of opinions and judgments, we do not for a moment lose sight of our main, socialist choice.

Looking over the past 3 years, almost everyone of us can say: Yes, we have changed. Indeed, we have changed, but it is of paramount importance to ensure that the awakened self-awareness is transformed day by day into the energy of creative activity by the masses rather than into our conventional slogans of "Let us work even better."

We have entered a new stage of restructuring. This is the stage of intense and very hard practical work in all areas of multifaceted activity. Many tasks demand immediate and specific solutions and brook no delay because they would lay the foundations for success in today's work on restructuring and for a headstart in the future; they would create conditions for the irreversibility of this revolutionary process which focuses on man with his vast needs for a better material life and a richer and more meaningful spiritual life.

Time is urging us on, especially regarding the solution of important problems like food, housing, and the provision of goods and services for the population.

The task of giving our plans a social orientation kept surfacing at the 27th party congress.

About 2 years later, delegates at the 19th all-union party conference noted the divergence between words and deeds. They expressed not only concern but also downright dissatisfaction with the way party, soviet, and economic organs and our leadership cadres act in utilizing the real potential for swiftly and considerably improving the state of affairs.

The range of questions on which your conference focused its attention is very broad and extensive. They all revolve around man's life and generate really sharp opinions. A desire for quest was expressed, numerous constructive suggestions were made—how to carry on, where should the main resources and efforts be concentrated.

Delegates, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee said, were quite critical in appraising the "yield coefficient" of political work with people and the efficiency standards not only of leadership cadres but also of all urban and rural working people.

Here is what I feel it is necessary to tell you, Communists from the Smolensk region.

First of all, no matter where in the country people live, they hear it said that your region's working people are highly patriotic people, and they know that the Smolensk region was the state's mainstay for many centuries before the revolution and during the years of establishing and defending the socialist fatherland.

Very many people from the Smolensk region have contributed to development in all areas of human culture.

Your region has not only produced great poets and musicians, eminent military leaders, and classics of agrarian science but has also handed down from generation to generation and enriched the best human qualities of spiritual purity and order in everything: in industriousness, in a respectful attitude toward all other nations and ethnic groups, in the readiness to rush to their assistance at any time.

The speaker reminded the audience that the food problem, concerning the satisfaction of people's most urgent vital needs, is the key element of modern economic and social policy. Our daily work is oriented toward ensuring that the utmost use is made of all existing reserves and opportunities to augment food resources. Achieving the set growth rate is not an easy task, it demands intelligent and intense work.

The former model of the socialist economy and the level of its efficiency, the speaker noted, failed to meet the internal potential inherent in the socialist system of economic management or the demands of modern development. We realized this and we are now acting to ensure that economic accountability, lease contracts, the cooperative system, and restructuring help us to restore man's position as active steward of production and to overcome his alienation from the means of production which developed during the period of the administrative-edict system.

Appraising the nature of the conference's work, V.P. Nikonov singled out the frank and principled discussion on what working people have achieved in the last 3 years and on the way words and deeds were matched by the party obkom and its staff, the bureau, in the leadership of this process. Summing up the report on the oblast party organization's work, he noted that the processes of restructuring sociopolitical life in the oblast are gathering strength under the leadership of Communists. The moral atmosphere has become purer, glasnost is gathering strength, and democratic principles are gaining an increasingly firm hold. Positive changes are occurring in the style of work by the party obkom, gorkoms, and raykoms. I am left with good impressions from my numerous meetings and conversations with labor collectives during the tour of the oblast. I am more firmly convinced that people fully support the restructuring which is under way and are ready to do everything to fulfill the tasks facing them.

At the same time, party political work in many areas has been sluggish, with insufficient competence or practical results, and this gives rise to anxiety and alarm as regards the growing lack of success in many vitally important affairs in the oblast.

The speaker went on to analyze in detail the state of the oblast's national economic sectors, drawing attention to the fact that many of them are developing extensively, with intolerably high expenditure of resources and low economic efficiency. Touching upon questions of capital construction, he emphasized that this sector owes a great debt to rural working people. For a long time now, the average number of apartments commissioned annually per kolkhoz or sovkhoz was never more than five, this being one-fourth of their requirements. All this gives grounds for saying the the party obkom, its bureau, and the oblispolkom have been solving the questions of the oblast's social development without due consideration for the CPSU Central Committee's demands and the urgent needs of the Smolensk countryside.

The program for rural revival elaborated in the oblast by no means fully encompasses all the problems of the Smolensk countryside. In addition to building housing, clubs, medical service stations, and kindergartens, it is necessary to solve the questions of labor conditions and all-year-round employment. Subsidiary shops and craft workshops are not properly widespread in the Smolensk

region today. The oblast also lacks shops for the processing of agriculture products. All these are questions concerning the employment of the female population, and even of machine operators in the winter.

The oblast's industrial enterprises and organizations must offer substantial assistance in the solution of these problems. After all, the computer equipment plant, the aviation plant, the sewn goods and knitwear factories, and other major enterprises could set up their own shops on kolkhozes and sovkhoses. Unfortunately, the Smolensk region is not utilizing other oblasts' experience in this work.

The social neglect of the countryside and the priority given to cities have resulted in the unjustified migration of people from rural localities to the cities. Over the last 17 years the Smolensk countryside has lost more than 1,900 population centers or 27 percent of their number in 1970, while the rural population numbers have declined by 200,000.

The demographical situation prevailing in the countryside and its socioeconomic aspects dictate the urgent need to ensure that the party obkom radically reviews its attitude toward the countryside and gives priority to the rural sector.

The speaker cited data pointing to the conclusion that the oblast's industrial potential is being utilized on an insufficiently broad scale to restore the disrupted equilibrium between city and countryside. The time has come for industry not to help agriculture but to work for it so as to guarantee more highly productive labor and normal social conditions for rural working people. The underestimation of the role and importance of the countryside's preferential development has created conditions for profound stagnation and decline in agriculture, and this has had a negative effect on the production levels of foodstuffs and the satisfaction of the population's needs for them.

This is primarily caused by the fact that the level of organizational and political work by the party obkom and the oblispolkom on the development of the agro-industrial complex is not in line with the situation prevailing in the agrarian sector of the oblast's economy. Not a single one of the programs adopted for the development of various agro-industrial complex sectors is being fulfilled.

Over the last 7 years the state plans for the sale to the state of grain, flax fiber, potatoes, meat, and milk have remained unfulfilled.

The speaker analyzed in detail the situation regarding the production of agricultural output and drew Communists' attention to the reserves for boosting it. These

reserves in arable farming are primarily the enhancement of agrotechnical standards, constant concern for soil fertility, and the introduction of intensive technologies.

The situation prevailing in horticulture, especially in grain and feed production, has a negative effect on the development of the most important agro-industrial complex sector—stock raising. Positions in this sector were being surrendered year in and year out without any justification at all. And even the gross output on personal farms during the 1st 2 years of the current 5-year plan period fell by 16 percent compared with the 11th 5-Year Plan indicators.

An insignificant advance has been achieved in the development of industrial enterprises' subsidiary farms.

An abnormal situation prevails as regards the buildup and utilization of the existing base for the storage and processing of agricultural raw materials. It is in a state of technical and technological neglect.

The oblast is thwarting the program for building and retooling the food and meat and dairy industries.

The conclusion suggests itself—some obkom and oblispolkom leaders are still more eager to make declarations about the need for action rather than practical deeds in questions concerning the development of the processing sectors.

The situation in agricultural production can be remedied, the speaker pointed out, only by changing production relations on kolkhozes and sovkhoses. There is no alternative. Lease contracts must provide the basis for these changes.

Unfortunately, lease contracts have found few supporters in the Smolensk region. It is clear that this process cannot be forced through by administrative methods, but it cannot be delayed, either.

And yet people in the oblast are in no hurry with this work, they are waiting for something, even though people at local level want to work in the new fashion. Even on laggard farms people have not lost the hope of setting matters right by organizing new relations, leases, and family contracts.

The main reason behind this situation is the fact that party organizations, economic organs, and primarily the agro-industrial complex officials do not give the due attention to the training of cadres at all levels. Very often they themselves display an extremely vague understanding of the essence, let alone the finer points, of modern forms of labor organization.

It is necessary to enhance the role of party organizations in the development of labor collectives' self-management and to boost the role and responsibility of labor collective councils for the fulfillment of production plans, the state of labor and technological discipline, and the solution of cadre and social questions.

All ideological work must be oriented toward the utmost expansion of democratization and glasnost and acceleration of the pace of socioeconomic transformations. Here it is important to overcome detachment from life. The enhancement of party organizations' educational role must be achieved by affirming in reality the principle of social justice and discipline, solving housing questions, improving food supplies, satisfying market demands for consumer goods, and raising the standards of health care services and culture.

There is no shortage of urgent problems posed by life and by the course of restructuring itself. We are just about setting off as regards their solution. The active participation by each and every one in political processes is inseparable from the practical implementation of current economic tasks. This is a truth which cannot be ignored.

This is why the CPSU Central Committee plenum held in November, when setting the party organizations new tasks, pointed out the need to persistently channel the population's growing political initiative into practical deeds.

The party's vanguard role as our society's ruling party can be guaranteed only through Communists' activeness, only by advance along the path of restructuring, only by Bolshevik truthfulness and probity, only by being able to share the people's concerns and needs, V.P. Nikonov said in conclusion.

The conference elected a new CPSU obkom and control and auditing commission.

A.A. Vlasenko was elected first secretary of the Smolensk Party Obkom at an organizational plenum.

During his stay in Smolensk Oblast 20-24 December, V.P. Nikonov saw for himself the work of several kolkhozes, sovkhoses, and industrial enterprises and had meetings with representatives of the party and soviet aktiv and of scientific institutions, lease contractors, and production pacemakers.

He had an interesting meeting with the collective of Gagarinskiy Rayon's Radishchev Kolkhoz, whose chairman is Hero of Socialist Labor I.A. Denisenkov.

The kolkhoz, flagship of Smolensk's farmers, obtains stable and high yields. This year its milk production was 1,200 tonnes more than last season's, bringing average annual milk yields up to 4,000 kg.

Following the tour of the dairy complex a meeting took place with stockraising workers and specialists. It was suggested that the Radishchev Kolkhoz should provide the base for setting up an interfarm association and an agro-industrial technical college to enable economically weak kolkhozes and sovkhoses and future specialists in mass trades to more swiftly master the advanced methods of economic management.

Numerous justified complaints were voiced against leaders and specialists in the neighboring Kirov Kolkhoz concerning their inability to organize production and their slack support for initiatives generated by the labor collective.

While in Gagarinskiy and Vyazemskiy Rayons the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee met young workers and families who have expressed the desire to work on lease contracts, and he noted the positive shoots of a new and promising movement in the Soviet countryside. A conversation about the further improvement of this method took place in the home of lease contractor Ye.P. Sukhov who, in addition to his main job as forester, and together with his wife, produces and sells an annual output of stockraising produce worth R20,000 and donates the bulk of these funds for charitable purposes.

There was sharp criticism of the leaders of Vyazma's meat combine, the city soviet, and construction industry workers for the slow pace of the enterprise's reconstruction, the poor utilization of advanced experience accumulated in the sector, and the slack organization of labor. The combine, just like Smolensk Oblast as a whole, has a very small ratio of output to 1 tonne of meat. At the same time, people here are not interested in the experience of the country's front-ranking enterprises in expanding their product range and introducing the achievements of scientific and technical progress. Similar shortcomings are typical of the milk-processing sector, as can be seen from a tour of the Smolensk dairy plant.

While in Smolenskiy Rayon, V.P. Nikonov visited Rozhanovo village, of "Katynskiy" Sovkhoz, which was considered "unpromising" until quite recently. Rozhanovo has now changed beyond recognition. An asphalt highway has been laid, a stockraising complex has been built, and the oblast's first electric storage heater boiler room operates there. It utilizes cheap electricity at night to heat water, which is then distributed to the settlement's homes. Concern for man has produced better economic indicators, and the local milkmaids' fame has spread all over the Non-Chernozem Zone.

There was a high appraisal of the creative quest and industriousness of the Roslavl flax plant collective, which has almost doubled its production capacity. In contrast with many related enterprises using primitive fiber production technology, the plant has elaborated and introduced waste-free technology, produces fleecy jersey fabrics [vatin] and fiber tiles which are a good

insulation material for housing construction, and has organized the production of consumer goods. Any additional profits are channeled into improving labor conditions and developing the social sphere and consumer services.

A conversation about boosting the returns from scientific research took place during the meeting with staffers of the oblast's A.N. Engelgardt Experimental Agricultural Station. The quest must be aimed primarily at solving topical questions of the development of new economic relations in the agrarian sector. Intense interest was shown in the station's activity to develop and introduce technology for cultivating a virus-free potato planting medium. At the same time, scientists admitted that they have lost the agrotechnical science traditions established earlier this century by their compatriot agrarian scientists.

V.P. Nikonov was accompanied on his tour of the oblast by A.A. Vlasenko and oblispolkom chairman A.I. Orlov.

Agricultural Developments for 19-25 December

LD2512232988 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 19-25 December. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

19-25 December—No fileworthy items monitored.

Scientific

Underground Nuclear Test in Semipalatinsk
LD2812071688 Moscow TASS in English 0705 GMT
28 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—The Soviet Union carried out an underground nuclear explosion of up to 20 kilotons at a test range in the area of Semipalatinsk at 8 hours 28 minutes today.

The test was conducted to check the results of the research into the physics of nuclear explosion.

The radiation situation in and outside the test area is normal.

Tupolev-204 Designer Discusses New Plane
LD2312032588 Moscow in English to North America
2300 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] The Soviet airline Aeroflot is switching to a new generation of planes. One of them is the Tupolev-204 airliner, whose design embodies many new features. A member of our staff interviewed the airliner's designer. I'll read you his report.

The Tu-204 is a medium range carrier, the most numerous class of Aeroflot planes. With a group of media people I was shown the plane by the designer Aleksey Tupolev. From a 15-meter high platform in the assembly shop we watched the plane being readied for testing. It looked something like a bird that had just lifted its very long wings and was about to take off. This impression was further heightened by the fact that the wings are not flat, as is usually the case, but are upturned at the tips. The two engines are, as in most modern planes, pylon-mounted in underwing pods. Asked how many passengers the new airliner would carry, the designer said this:

[Begin Tupolev recording in Russian with superimposed summary in English] Aleksey Tupolev said the airliner is to provide comfortable seating accommodation for 214 passengers. During its service life an airliner makes over 20,000 flights, for the Tu-204 this should be equivalent to circling the globe some 2,000 times. What features have been incorporated in the new airliner to make this possible?

Of course, said the designer, the plane is not intended for a service life of 1 year. It's estimated service life is 15 years, therefore it's important that it be modern in every respect, that it represent the state of the art or even be superior to the finest airliners of its class in other countries and the Tu-204 does meet these requirements in its technical specifications. What's more the plane is highly fuel efficient. In carrying 214 passengers it will consume a mere three tonnes of fuel an hour—a substantial saving compared with previous models. The plane has new engines, new unit arrangements, new computers, new materials, and some very large components. For example, its wings are made of sheets 22 meters long without any joints. All the fuselage parts are likewise about three times larger than those of the Tu-154, which the new plane replaces. Asked about the advantages of planes assembled from large parts, the designer said this means a saving in weight, fewer joints and a longer service life. As in modern motorcars, greater use is being made in aircraft of parts made from light and strong polymer materials. This is done to make planes lighter and more fuel efficient.

Finally, asked how the Tu-204 looks alongside the most advanced Western airliners, Tupolev said that in design standards it is superior to the Boeing 757, the most economical of American airliners. [end recording]